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events dates places Rain or shine, March 1 will see the girls of the West Coast Region meeting for a rehearsal dive, preparing for their Championship contest, at the Malibu La Costa Beach Club, 21440 Pacific Coas Highway, at 10 a.m. The club is located one block west of the Sheriff's Station in Malibu. Bids are out for the coming Women's Underwater Spearfishing Championships to be held in July, a sponsor is needed . . . contact Kate Miller, 3001 Stanford Ave., Venice, Calif. Great publicity opportunity.

Get your copy of the Official Rules Book for competitive skin diving. A limited number have been prepared for clubs, associations, councils, officials, etc., by the National Committee for A.A.U. Competitive Skin Diving. Sale of the Rules Book is being made by Marie Dessell, 602 Rue Max, Warrington, Florida. 50c per copy. If you want your club listed in the Official Skin Diving Club Roster to be published soon in SD be sure to have the secretary send us a postcard giving the club name and permanent address. The old roster is being thrown out and a new one compiled. This notice applies to all clubs, councils, association and groups that wish recognition on the Roster.

Have you changed your mailing address recently, is SD coming to you correctly every month? Send address changes, both your old and new, to SD, Lynwood, California, for prompt receipt of your magazine each month. Second class mail is not forwarded.

The DIVERS FLAG has now been accepted by the majority of the active groups in the nation and Canada. This orange-red flag with a diagonal white stripe will have to be promoted to boat owners and associations throughout the world so that they will recognize and identify your flag. Publicity on the DIVERS FLAG has already appeared in national boat magazines and this must continue also the flag should be displayed at shows, conventions, on TV ... everywhere a group of boating enthusiasts are in attendance. Congratulations to Ted Nixon, Roy Pearce, Will Jacobs and Gent Parker for the work they have already done to promote and publicize the flag. Keep it up!

Contact your local skin diving association for reports on the com ing spearfishing competitive season. Competitors in past years have had a real ball, this year will be the same with Regional Champions going to the Bahamas for the Nationals.

cover

The spirit of skin diving throughout the world is portrayed is this month's cover. Members of the Lake Erie Scuba Divers, it Cleveland, Ohio, stopped long enough for club photographer Otto Schutte to snap this action-filled, chilled, and thrilled scene. The universal call and challenge to go under the sea is again repeated . . . where you find water, you'll find skin divers, and in all ele ments.



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LETTERS

. . During a diving trip last October, I cam across the most unusual sea creature and am in hopes that the readers can enlighten me. I was in Northern Luzon, Philippine Islands doing a bit of mucking about a approximately seven fathoms when I came across a very beautiful sea snake or sea worm. It was about six inches long, one quarter of an inch in width and had a white body. The thing that left me quite confused was the fact that it had several bright orange spots on the upper side of its body and although I was only a few feet from it I could not distinguish any eyes or mouth. It moved in much the same fashion as a land snake. I have talked with several other skin divers and so far have found none who could enlighten me,

Richard H. Rice Box 61 Pine Bluff, N. C.

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. I am an Australian recently come to Canada and I am a skin diving and spearfishing enthusiast. I have done quite a bit of diving on the southern coast of N.S.W. where as you doubtless know, conditions for the sport are excellent.

Since my arrival in Toronto I have been reading "Skin Diver" and I am pleased to say that I have found it both very interesting and entertaining. My reason for writing is that I am hoping to do some diving in various parts of the U.S. and with this in mind I would like to contact other members of the clan who might be willing to give me information

about diving in various areas.

If anyone would care to drop me a note about spearfishing and skin diving, I would be very pleased to hear from them and I am hoping to get some equipment and get to it again as soon as things warm up a bit.

Paul Tilburn Apt. 202 220 Eglinton Ave. East Toronto, Ontario Can.

Just a line to clear up a misstatement in

the January 1958 issue of the Skin Diver. On page 9, with regard to California Abalone Divers Under Fire, in the last paragraph, . restrictions such as it it is stated Florida and New York to be imposed . .

Please be advised that there are no restrictions in New York such as implied. The only legislation at present is with regard to diving off public beaches, State Park beaches, and of course, private property.

Norman H. Schiff

Empire State Underwater Council

. We are forming a new Skin Divers Club in our area and would appreciate assistance in organizing. Several questions have arisen that we need help on. What has been the experience of other clubs in excepting people under 21 years of age? Is the club legally responsible for these persons? And has legal precedence been set relative to this matter? What insurance do the clubs find most useful, Public Liability? Accident? Personal Liability? Medical of

Karl L. Mahler 313 West 7th Street Eureka, California (More letters on page 8)

SKIN DIVER-March, 1958

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LETTERS

. . . I have recently moved my base of operations to Taipei where the diving is good, but like Japan fished too intensively by native fishermen. We have a good group here and I'll send more news on Formosa shortly. The coastal natives are all good divers, being away ahead of us in familiarity with the underwater world. I got my first pair of carved wooden goggles in Tsingtao in 1932, cost 20c, and I have been diving since then.

Taipei isn't on the world cruise route and we're not too well fixed for tourists but diving's excellent—tropical water, coral, clear water of any depth, abundant colorful tropical fish, lobster and eating fish or large fish for hunting. If anybody comes this way, we will be glad to fix them up. Diving is only 30 minutes from town.

G. K. Fitch ICA—Union Bldg. Taipei, Formosa

... I have heard of an unusual mishap which occurred and would like to warn other divers against a repeat happening. This fellow had the valve on his lung jarred open while the tank was on the floor of his car. All the windows were closed and the pressure blew his eardrums.

Ed Hertfelder Philadelphia, Penna.

... I would like to correspond with anyone who has experience or any ideas about underwater flying. I am a skin diver and have been thinking of building an underwater sled of some kind, but have never built one before. I would appreciate any advice that you fellow divers could offer me. I have been thinking of an aqua glider similar to the Deluxe Johnson Aqua Sled, Vanlears Manta or something similar. All advice is welcomed. Thanks!

Boris Winterhalter

Boris Winterhalter Lauttasaari, Iso Kaari 10, B, 41 Helsinki, Finland

... After reading the articles on ear problems in the November and January issues of S.D. by Edward Kompass and Robert Martin, I would like to add my plea for a solution to this mystery.

About three years ago I went for an underwater sled ride in Lake Geneva, Wisc. I surfaced with a deafness and a feeling of pressure in both ears which I attributed to ascending too rapidly. This condition continued for about twenty-four hours, after which my right ear went back to normal, but the left one retained a slight muffled sound and a high pitched ringing just as Mr. Kompass and Mr. Martin described.

I consulted an ear specialist and was treated for a plugged eustachian tube. He sprayed the tube, probed it and massaged my ear drum with a vibrator. I visited him about six times and he finally discharged me with the advise to stop skin diving. I stayed away from the water for a while but the condition didn't improve and I've been diving regularly since.

I've gotten rather used to this condition but would certainly welcome any advise which would help relieve this situation. I would be grateful for any letters.

John Carlson 1511 13th St. Rockford, Ill.

... Perhaps I am the first to witness a weird underwater phenomenon which might be described as a rainbow under the sea—if such a thing is possible. Nonetheless, the fact remains that I dld see a strange color effect while recently doing some underwater photography near Halifax.

Just beneath the surface, and visible in all directions, was a complete spectrum. A foot

below the waves was the red band, especially brilliant, with the other colors extending downwards for about four feet to the green and blues which were partially masked by the natural tint of the water.

My theory is that the colors were produced by the diffraction of the light as it encountered a selective interference pattern caused by the mixing of salt water and a layer of fresh water which always floats on top after rains Or, it might simply have been an odd scattering effect due to the presence of extremely fine particles in suspension.

I hope some other diver has had a smilar experience and will be able to supply the answer to this most curious and stylking problem.

Douglas R. Grant Halifax, Nova Scotia

... In regard to your survey on the flag to be used by divers, our club has decided to use the DIVERS FLAG. This design has been approved by the B.C. Safety Council and we are now waiting for approval from the Department of Transport.

Stan Kennedy, Secretary Vancouver Sub-Aquatic Sub-Vancouver, B.C., Canada

... At our first general meeting for 195 the Club voted to adopt the Divers Flag. After much discussion, it was felt that the diver flag should be different from the present Seven Flag and that the one suggested was as good as any. Please count on us to cooperate with you 100%. The official size of the flag will probably be set out when the governmen's of both countries have been consulted.

C. B. Davis The Underwater Club of Canada Toronto, Canada

. . . At our last meeting our club discussed the Diving flag question as out-lined in the December issue. Our vote is for the diagonal striped DIVERS flag.

The mere acceptance of a flag by the clubs will be worthless unless we can teach the millions of boat owners in the United States the true meaning of the flag. Our club would like to see a small leaflet showing a picture of the flag, and a short outline of its purpose. This leaflet could be made available to the clubs at a nominal cost, and distributed to boat owners through the boat dealers in their area.

C. K. Sherrill Pioneer Skin Diving Club Arlington, Va.

. A few more thoughts on the Divers Flag from a critical point of view. Ted Nixon tells of using the DIVERS FLAG to block off one half of a lake. How to know which half the divers were using? What if the lake were not large enough to accommodate the boating traffic too, would the boats continue to cooperate? Would bad feelings be aroused? Who gave any certain area for the exclusive use of the skin divers? What proportion should each have and who should decide? Is a flag easy to see and recognize at a distance of half a mile (quite a few boats travel this far in about thirty seconds)? Even a painted board as suggested by Gerald Le Breton has two completely blind approaches and is therefore only 50% visible. A 12"x 12" flag or board is exceedingly small at half a mile and any similarity in background hides it completely.

It seems to me that a large balloon might be better. Most of all the DIVERS will have to be educated and unselfishized before it will be accepted and respected by the boatowners. As far as passing laws are concerned better pay some attention to the rights of the boatowners also or the whole idea is doomed.

Johnny Logan Venice, Calif. THE

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Story of Capt. Jacques Cousteau

By James Dugan

with a foreword by Captain Cousteau

Illustrated with Photographs and Diagrams

Here is the true story, stranger than Jules Verne, of the undersea explorer who has thrilled the world with his discoveries. James Dugan, one of Couste u's oldest associates and the ship's reporter on the undersea expeditions, tells the fabulous story of Cousteau's life from his boyhood to the present day.

The book includes many of Cousteau's thrilling adventures—diving under the weed garden of the Sargasso Sea, straling an enemy secret code, getting lost in an avalanche one mile under the sea, and exploring a ship sunk in 205 B.C. These are only a few of the fantactic events of Cousteau's life. Co-inventor of the Aqua-Lung, leader of the Calypso Expeditions with the world's leading diving group, and "father of free diving," Captain Cousteau is the idol of millions of young people all over the world.

The book is illustrated with magnificent undersea photographs in color and black and white as well as with many diagrams,

Undersea Explorer brings the skin diving reader up-to-date on the current activities of Captain Cousteau and his associates. His work at the Oceanographic Museum at Monaco where he is Director, and the work of the l'Office Français de Recherches Sous-Marines where the "diving saucer" is being constructed. The diving saucer is being built for exploration on the contenintal shelf, far below the operating range of the Aqua-Lung diver. Captain Cousteau has more or less abandoned the surface waters of the globe for the deeper sections of 200 to 1200 feet. The diving saucer is a fabulous piece of underwater machinery, you will want to read about it in the Undersea Explorer and then follow it's progress and the men who run it when their findings are revealed to the topside world.

Undersea Explorer, \$2.95, Harper & Brothers, 143 pages, illustrated, by James Dugan.

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SKIN DIVING'S GRANDADDY?

By ART BROWN

With today's inventors, it's a chore to get the geniuses and the screwballs in the proper bins, although by backlooking and second-guessing, we can generally count the bygone geniuses with the articles now in use (especially if we use them ourselves) and the screwballs with what has exploded from too-high boiler pressure.

Presumably in class one, is Halvor Olsen, who according to the U. S. Patent file, thought up the idea of getting, as he says in his patent, "the pleasure of rapid motion through the water" through the use of fins attached to the feet. He called his invention Finned Sandals for the Feet, and in 1868 was granted the first U.S. fin patent.

Mr. Olsen held forth in San Francisco, California and search of the records of the Historical Society there indicates that although Olsen was the operator of a photographic gallery (a display of ordinary photographs was good for a small admission in those days) no picture of him remains. He lived in modest quarters in an area later destroyed by the earthquake of 1906.

Olsen states in his patent disclosure "The sandals D are made to fit and be fastened upon the feet, and they are furnished with ribs C, and fins or webs E, uniting them for making propellers for the feet." Olsen states the ribs may be made of any flexible material united by webs of any kind (India rubber, by preference). This construction appeared very close to the present jobs, so your writer constructed one so described and illustrated fin and used it in conjunction with a modern fin on the other foot. The resulting ratio of effort to thrust was high-the modern fin, molded as it is in one piece, representing more of a manufacturing economy than a vast improvement in efficiency.

What, to my mind, is the most interesting part of the Olsen patent is his claim of "Invention of Combination." In other words, Olsen describes a float to be used in conjunction with the fins and claims as his invention "the combined use of the floats and finned sandals." Since Mr. Olsen makes no attempt to claim fins, as such, as an invention, it may very well be that San

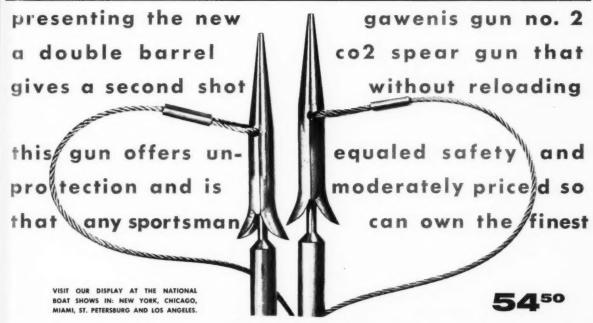


Drawing from U.S. Patent No. 74,931, Halvar Olsen, dated Feb. 25, 1868, covering swimming apparatus.



Working model of Olsen's finned sandals, constructed about 1950 and used experimentally in conjunction with a modern fin on the other foot.

Francisco fins were already common in those days, in those bays, and that the idea died out for over seventy years and that we are now living in a reincarnated age of Finned Sandals for the Feet, and that Halvor Olsen is the forgotten Grandaddy of Divers.



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DIVERSIFIED DIVERS

By Clyde Warner

Our diving is a bit limited here, Wallowa Lake and the Columbia River backwaters, but with our rubber exposure suits we know no season. Wallowa Lake is located at the foot of the Wallowa Mountains, "The Switzerland of America." Its elevation is 4411 feet and it is a perfectly formed glacial lake three miles long and three-quarters mile wide. The deepest point is 283 feet deep. Sixty percent is 250 feet deep. We work the ledges, bars and foot for anything we might happen upon. We have been locating quite a bit of equipment and hope to try for several motors

The lake froze over during February and we have done some under ice exploring.

We spent the weekends of October swimming with and watching Chinook Salmon spawn in the Cold Springs site in Hat Rock Park, located in the Mc-Nary Dam reservoir.

Each time we went over we would clean the large suckers and carp out of the area as they were following the salmon and trying to eat their spawn. The suckers were easy to get with sling spears as most had their eyes knocked out by the salmon and were blind. The carp were more frisky but we usually managed to get a few of them. The largest carp we speared was 28" but we saw larger that outwitted us. We had to watch out for the salmon as they were very aggressive and we respected their teeth.

By the last of October the salmon were spawned out and dying rapidly. We retrieved some of the dead ones from the bottom and they ran at an average of fifteen pounds each. This is about half what they weigh when they enter the mouth of the Columbia, so they had been up to thirty-five pounds at one time.



UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By Zale Parry

The land of Cinemascope has acquired another dimension in the recent formation of the Underwater Photographers Society of Southern California. A long-time playland for skiers, sport car enthusiasts and sun-bathers now has officially recognized skin and scuba livers who successfully combine pho ography with their underwater activities.

On September 1, 1957, twenty six charter members of the Society drew up a constitution designed to promote the overall field of underwater photography. Their objectives are to exchange knowledge and information; to promote underwater photography; to provide practical group activity; to assist members in purchasing, maintenance and processing of photography supplies; to offer training experiences; to provide for display, recognition, and evaluation of members' efforts; and to study advanced techniques and equipment.

Sponsored by the U.P.S. and the Los Angeles County Underwater Section Department of Parks and Recreation, the First Underwater Film Festival was held on December 7th. Our program included slides in 35mm color and 8mm, 16 mm and 35 mm film which was viewed by an audience close to six hundred in number

Plans for the Second Underwater Film festival are being made now for a June date. The festivals give an opportunity to those exposed-film holders who wish to exploit their reels for a future harvest. The deadline for film reviews by the Society for the June festival will be May 1st.

Then a black and white still contest will be opened to ANYONE for black and white underwater photographs. All prints become the property of the Underwater Photographers Society for nonprofit purposes. Field trips and other exciting group activities are in the bag,

The officers are: President, Earl Shugarman; Vice President, Ed White; Recording Secretary, Zale Parry; Corresponding Secretary, Lillian Kemble; Treasurer, Walt Nash; and Technical Advisor, Al Tillman.

If you are interested in membership and/or have slides or film you wish to exhibit at the June Festival please write Underwater Photographers Society of Southern California, P.O. Box 33-331, Los Angeles, California.

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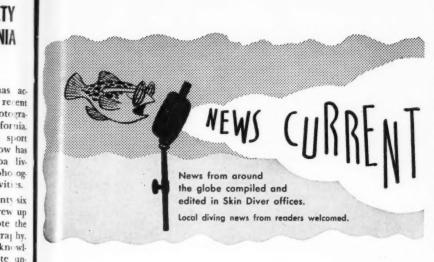
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RIPI EY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT—A ring lost by Paul Goo of Onekahaka Beach, Hawdil, was found by a skin diver and returned to its owner 30 years later.

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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—From Neil Morgan's column comes this choice one: Peete Coffield, an ardent skin diver, already is using her favorite Christmas gift—a diamond studded abalone iron.

NEW YORK—As the battle of the budget begins, let the tired taxpayer cry: "Billions for defense—gladly. But not one cent for skin diving flippers for mountain troops."

LONDON, ENGLAND—Frogmen and police battled for 48 hours to rescue six students trapped in a maze of caves under the York-shire moors. The students, all members of the Bradford Technical College Caving Club, were trapped by flood waters and shifting rocks 450 feet below the surface.

VENEZUELA—John Geis aided in the recovery of a 2,000 pound anchor used on a Spanish warship about 1750. The group also brought up a number of ancient cannons. The "loot" was turned over to the museum.

NEW YORK—A search for the first oceangoing steamship is being conducted by the Navy. A magnotometer equipped Navy blimp is surveying the approximate location of the wreck with the hope of discovering the hulk of the vessel with the magnotometer, a device which will detect any large deposits of metal. Standing by to contribute their efforts when the site is determined are the army, coast guard and a host of skin divers from the northeastern states. Spearheading the quest for the S.S. Savannah is Frank O. Braynard who originally suggested and led the campaign to have the nation's first atomic merchant ship named "The Savannah". Plans for the wreckage of the first Savannah, if found, include a memento for President Eisenhower; a gavel for the Speaker of the House, part of the wreckage to the city of Savannah and a piece of metal to be placed in the bridge of the new Savannah.

MATHESON'S BEACH, LEIGH, NEW ZEALAND—Seventeen-year-old Ian Porter of Bayswater speared a 487 pound sting ray off

Matheson's Beach. The gigantic catch is believed to be a New Zealand and possibly a world record for single-harpoon spearfishing. The ray measured eight feet from tip to tip.

Latest in the episodes of comic strip character Alley Oop will be skin diving and underwater nonsense based on facts and real fish. The creator, V. T. Hamlin, will base the new adventure on information gathered from Dr. Eugenle Clark Konstantinu, ichthyologist, skin diver and director of the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory at Englewood, Florida.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA—Purchase of a half dozen scuba units has been approved by the park board, two units are to be located at each of three main beaches for rescue work beginning this summer. The purchase was reportedly spurred by a drowning last summer when a lifeguard at Lake Calhoun drowned while attempting to recover a pair of glasses in 20 feet of water. The guard was using a diving helmet supplied with air from a surface hand pump.

CAMDEN, NEW YORK—Four divers at the request of troopers searched the depths of Oneida Lake for the body of Charles Jacobs who was believed killed when his light plane developed engine trouble and plunged into the lake. The divers, Dick and Max Laribee, Dick Ackers and Philip Stone, reported the pilot's body missing from the plane and diving was abandoned because of difficult water conditions.

HOBART, TASMANIA—Members of the Marine Research Group of the Underwater Skin Diving and Fishing Association of Tasmania had a souvenir field day on the 107-year-old "Catherine Shearer" after attempts to raise the old anchor and a heavy deposit of lead had failed. Among the souvenirs were five earthenware pots, a small piece of Devonshire pottery, a heavy gudgeon off the rudder, and many other trinkets.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON—Bill Mertz of the Puget Sound Mudsharks caught a 13½ foot octoous by hand in Hood Canal. The catch is believed to be a world record. The previous hand caught mark was a 13 footer by Gary Keffler, also of the Mudsharks.

EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN—During the recent near zero weather State Policemen conducted a skin diving test at Higgins Lake. The 17 troopers had to break ice on the lake and dipped into the water for about 15 minutes under the test.

SAN DIEGO—Dr. Ailene Morris, "moon-watcher" and skin diver, is credited with the adoption of a new international rescue color. As a result of her research studies in visibility of objects a new fluorescent red-orange will replace the current bright yellow as the rescue color.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN—As seven shivering members of the Milwaukee Polar Bear club splashed in the surf at Bradford Beach, members of the Midwest Amphibians held one of their regular dives farther out in the lake.

PERTH, AUSTRALIA—A fish that didn't get away, a 250 lb. (approximate) groper speared by members of the **Five Fathom**Club, caught some patrons of the **Rottnest**Hotel. A weight guessing sweep run in the bar fell through when the large groper broke the scales.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A law prohibiting the use of skin diving in public pools has recently been passed by the District Commissioners governing the operation of public pools in the Washington, D.C. area (including pools operated by U.S. Park Service). The law was enacted because of a minor accident occurring in a public pool this past summer when a swimmer dived from a board and lacerated his knee on a submerged diver's scuba tank.

POINT PLEASANT, NEW JERSEY—The salvaged cargoes of two ships sunk off Manasquan more than a century ago finally reached the auction block and the recovered articles including copper pots, tin ingots and brass buttons were sold for \$1,671. The Superior Court took custody of the property over a year ago and appointed one of the two salvage teams, claiming ownership of the cargo, to salvage the material.

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA—The Aerosonic Corp., division of Pinellas Industry, has begun manufacturing marine products including "The Gawenis Gun" for skin divers.

SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA—An underwater diving course is being offered at the Deauville Athletic Club under the direction of Ed White in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

DUMONT, NEW JERSEY—A believer of physical activity to equalize the pressures fostered by the mental duties of a pastor, Rev. Harry Jordan relaxes underwater. A member of the Diving Jets, Rev. Jordan has been active in diving five years.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN—Jim Johnson, University of Michigan student, does part of his homework under the ice of a lake. He studies fish in their winter habitat.

AUSTRALIA—Roy Howell of Moorabbin, Victoria, won the Australian open title at the spearfishing championships at Port Hughes. Howell won by a quarter of a point from Frank Alexander.

MACKAY, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA— A rare fish, the butterfly cod, was caught by a Mackay professional fisherman using an underwater speargun. The butterfly cod is equipped with fins like wings, made of delicate skin and highly colored.



Ice breaking ceremony is attended by ax wielding Richard Prestis and Dick Dombroski who is checking the depth. Jim Wetmore looks on in anticipation of the coming dive.

Ice Cube Prospectors

The Lake Erie Scuba Divers this January, logged their second club ice dive. This dive was organized for two reasons. The first, as the cartoon below suggests, was to pile up more experience in ice cube prospecting and, secondly to squeeze some publicity out of the local newspapers.

You can imagine our delight when both intents were generously satisfied.

At the end of our sortie into the frigid depths we added another malady to the present list of divers' diseases—cold toes.

When the local newspapers learned of our plans to crack through ice-covered Lake Erie, with member Otto Schutte recording the event with his camera, they pounced on us with such good news coverage, that club members are now being hailed around town with catchy little greetings like—"Hello, you self-contained block of ice."

-Jan P. Woodside



Club secretary Pat Woodside finds the water temperature to be a cool 33 degrees as Theodore Szalay marks the ice thickness at five inches.

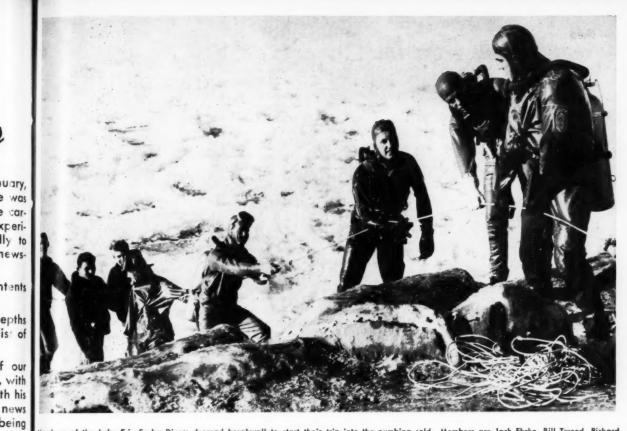


SKIN DIVER-March, 1958

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SKIN D



Members of the Lake Erie Scuba Divers descend breakwall to start their trip into the numbing cold. Members are Jack Ehrke, Bill Tweed, Richard Balch, Richard Prestis, Dick Dombroski, Jeffrey Heller, Theodore Szalay and Pat Woodside.



Emerging from the ice after a seven minute crawl in five feet of frigid water are divers Bud Koster, Richard Prestis, Dick Dombroski and Richard Balch. Non-diving club members assisting the divers are Theodore Szalay, Pat Woodside, Jeffrey Heller and Bob Enstin. Newspaper photographers crowded the scene and the club received more favorable publicity for the sport than they had anticipated.

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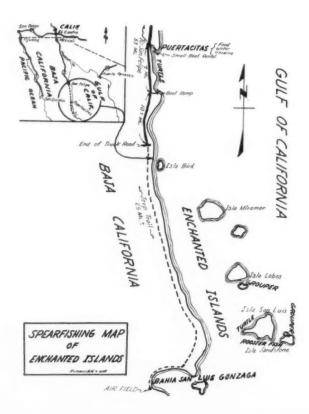
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ENCHANTED ISLANDS

By Ken Kummerfeld and Chuck Wilt



FOR many years skin divers in the Southern California area have been searching for ways to get to the fabulous diving areas of the Gulf of California. Several areas have been developed over the years-Guaymas, Puerto Penasco, Los Angeles Bay, etc.; however, all of these areas require more than a week-end to get to from the Southern California area. Many skin diving trips have been made to San Felipe, the closest point of contact on the Gulf; however, in the past, these trips have resulted in little if any success. It was found that the extreme tides, muddy and shallow waters around San Felipe did not allow enough visibility for skin diving.

Thanks to the Mexican Government, a new road is being constructed below San Felipe into the area of the "Enchanted Islands." The Islands lie approximately 75 miles below San Felipt which puts them in an area of relatively clear water since they lie south of the influence of the Colorado River mud flats. This area can be easily reached from Southern California for a week-end of diving. The driving time to San Felipe is about seven hours from Los Angeles, and it takes only a few more hours to get from San Felipe to the diving areas.

The road below San Felipe is not paved, therefore pick-up trucks or jeeps are recommended. Passenger cars and station wagons are making the drive down; however, they should be in good repair with good tires and, also, they should not be too heavily loaded as good clearance under your vehicle is required. The first development, 21 miles below San Felipe, is a picturesque Mexican sulfur mine. Below the mine, the next habitation is the little settle ment of "Puertacitas," which is 53 miles below San Felipe. Puertacitas is the northerly end of the diving area and is the best point of embarkation to the

Turtles and here Ken turtle the frying pa

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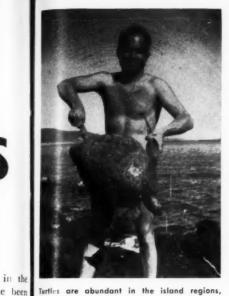
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Turtles are abundant in the island regions, here Ken Kummerfeld holds an average size turtle that will soon be dispatched to the frying pan.

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The new road is driveable for about another 17 miles below Puertacitas. Below that the road starts through the mountains; it is somewhat improved and can be traveled by jeeps or four-wheel drive trucks for another four or five miles; at this point the Mexican road crew is working to improve the jeep trail that leads south past the Islands to the Bay of San Luis Gonzaga. Travel into the mountains is not recommended as the road is extremely poor and goes inland several miles where there is no access to the Gulf.

The only place south of San Felipe with any type of facilities is Puertacitas. It is a campground that has been set up adjacent to a small bay for tents, house trailers, etc. The weather is about like Palm Springs, hot in the summer, but ideal the rest of the year. Night temperatures in winter can get quite cold, so it is advisable to have good sleeping gear. A launching ramp has also been deared. Camping and boat launching cost 25 cents and 50 cents. Limited amounts of Mexican water, food, beer and gasoline are available; however, if your carrying space permits, it is suggested that all food and water be brought from home. In regards to gasoline, it should be kept in mind that if you are traveling through San Felipe at night no gas stations are open from about 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., so unless you want to depend on the limited gasoline supply at Puertacitas it will be necessary to carry extra gas. Gasoline is cheapest at Mexicali (231/2 cents a gallon), so fill up there if possible. Sevis the eral small rustic cabins with earthen floors are available at Puertacitas for about \$1.00 a night; occasionally ice is available. Several types of boats and

motors are for rent. A boat (16 foot) big enough to take four men to the Islands costs \$10.00 per day if you have your own motor, and \$16.00 per day with a 25 hp motor furnished. Skiffs and small motors for local shore diving are more reasonable.

Several miles below Puertacitas are numerous small coves that are ideal for camping, shore diving and launching small boats (those that can be carried or hand pushed through loose sand). A new camp and launching ramp is being constructed seven miles below Puertacitas. There is also access to the gulf at a point about 17 miles below Puertacitas, you can camp and launch small, light boats there, however there are no facilities. In general it should be remembered that the road gets progressively worse below Puertacitas and that it is faster to go by boat than to drive. Most 14 and 16 foot boats should be launched at Puertacitas for ease of launching. Bigger cabin cruisers should be launched at San Felipe and be brought by way of water to the diving areas. Boat trailers with small tires are not recommended anywhere below San Felipe; however, people are taking them down. Trailer tires (and even automobile tires) are not available anywhere below Mexicali.

While diving at the Island is best, there is, however, fair diving from shore. Visibility is usually 12 to 15 feet. The best shore diving is in the area from about one-half mile north of Puertacitas to about two miles south. The points immediately adjacent on each side of Puertacitas are good for turtle and fish to 50 pounds. These areas can be reached by walking from Puertacitas, along shore or from the road. Water temperatures in summer run around 80 degrees, while winter temperatures of 60 degrees can be expected. The most numerous fish are Trigger Fish and Pargo (up to 15 pounds), Grouper and Pinto Bass (very common up to 30 pounds) and of course Turtle. Divers can also get rock scallops up to 6 to 7 inches across and unusual sea shells. Yellowtail, Roosterfish, Grouper and Black Sea Bass have also been taken, particularly around the Islands.

The clearest water and the best diving is at the Islands. They are composed of a chain of volcanic peaks rising out of the water and lie about four miles from shore and about 20 miles southeast of Puertacitas. Although boats and motors can be rented at Puertacitas, as mentioned before, to be sure of transportation to the Islands it is best to have your own boat. While diving at the Islands there is one thing that should be kept in mind-there are strong currents that accompany periods of extreme tides. It was found by the writers that in some places the current



One of several large rooster fish speared by the explorers is held up for th camera by

was so strong that it was advantageous to keep one person in the boat at all times, to keep the boat fairly near the divers. The water around the Islands is usually clearest at the most southerly island (Isla San Luis) where visibility of about 40 feet can be expected.

The Isla San Luis is a very interesting island. The northwest side is of volcanic origin, which provides large underwater caves and a sea growth on the lava rock that apparently is very favorable to turtle, since they are abundant. The south side of the island is primarily sand stone with a sand and shell ocean floor extending in some locations a quarter-mile to sea with an average depth of 18 to 20 feet. It is this area that the Rooster fish and Yellowtail seem to like. The Rooster fish in the adjoining picture was taken in this area.

For something out of the ordinary, a boat, plane or jeep trip can be taken to the beautiful Bay of San Luis Gonzaga which lies about 30 miles by boat, and 40 miles by road below Puertacitas. The best way is by fast boat and then camping over night at the bay. Virgin skin diving areas at each side of the bay entrance are good for large Grouper and other fish, although the diving is not comparable to Isla San Luis. If going to the bay, stay close to shore after passing the last island as the entrance to the bay is fairly small and hard to identify from a distance. There is an airstrip at the south side of the bay and a small Mexican labor camp with two or three laborers, otherwise there is no habitation in this area.



Flags on anchored buoys keep boats away from an area reserved for a skin diving contest.

THE DIVERS FLA

By Gene Parker

So now we have a flag . . . and a tube sack full of questions. How big, and what color should it be? How do we use the thing?

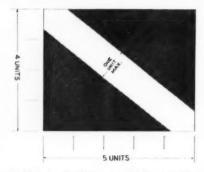
It is obvious that we can't use the same size flag as the Navy number seven flag. This three by five foot flag is fine for flying from a mast head. Can you picture it on a small buoy or tube sack?

It looks like the flag is going to have to be tailored to suit the object on which it is to float.

First, let's tackle the problem of dimensions. Do we want it square or rectangular? Experiments indicate that proportions of four units high by five units wide will serve our purpose best. It is not too long a flag for a light wind to keep unfurled. The free end of a longer flag might droop into the water. A square flag doesn't seem to display the transverse white stripe as well as the rectangular flag, in all breeze conditions.

As to how large the flag should belook at it this way. If we're flying it from a ship's mast we can use a big one. It could be four by five feet in size. If it's on a stick mounted on a tube sack, or diver's towed buoy, it can be as small as twelve by fifteen inches. This size should be recognizable as a diver's flag from a distance of a hundred vards, or more.

How wide should the white stripe be? Let's go back to the experiments again. A stripe one unit wide shows up very well in wind and calm. When the flag is wet, a narrower stripe is often almost



hidden in the limp wet folds. A wider stripe doesn't leave much of the rest of the flag.

Which brings up the next question. What color is it to be? Here come those experiments again. Red shows up very poorly at a distance, against a large expanse of water. If it gets wet, the usual red flag becomes darker and loses much of its color brilliance.

Yellow is recommended for underwater equipment. Many states are seriously considering yellow in preference to red as a safety color for hunters.

But reflect-we've got a white stripe. Yellow doesn't contrast too well with white. A yellow and white flag may not stand out well against the pale vellow sands of a beach.

So again we compromise. We come up with the color red-orange. Scientifically, orange is the direct complimentary of blue and therefore contrasts best against blue water. It stands out against a dark mass as well as that beach that was mentioned.

The Divers flag should never be used light but durable material so that it will extend itself in the wind and not flap itself to shreds

The Divers flag should never be used as a permanent buoy marker. It could be used as a strictly temporary marker for some underwater discovery,

Boatmen should be encouraged to look at the flag as an aid for their benefit. Posters acquainting the boat operators with this flag should stress that the diver working under that flag may very well be occupied in helping some other boatman recover a boat or



This boat is towing a diver who is searching for a lost outboard motor. The divers flags mark the limits of the search pattern. The boat operator uses them as a course guide.

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SKIN DIVER-Morch, 1958

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SKIN



Diver bringing an Atlantic lobster to a tube sack. In salt water the flag will probably be used on tubes more than any other application. Fresh water divers would be more likely to use the flag on small buoys.

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Divers using the flag on a small towed buoy while exploring. Also used when the diver is taking underwater photographs, spearfishing or on a search and recovery mission.



Here the flag is mounted on a stationary buoy. The diver is working in a localized area only.

GUERNSEY ISLAND MERMEN ACTIVE

By Michael Falla

The 1957 season in Guernsey has proved very good although a rather late start was enforced by the prolonged arrival of migratory fish.

Only one competition was held this year; between the twelve members competing there were 390 lbs. of fish caught, one competitor landing 93 lbs. single handed. Catches included 40 lb. conger eel, 38 lb. sting ray, 14 lb. spotted dog fish, several 3 lb. plaice and numerous 15 to 25 lb. congers. One summer visitor who worked here for the season had a catch totalling 800 to 1000 lbs. of fish and lobsters. In doing this he managed to create a lot of grey hairs among the officials as his system was to don plenty of clothes and a rubber suit then proceed out to sea, not being seen for some 4 to 5 hours.

On one occasion a local woman seeing his body from her window at various times throughout the day phoned the police informing them there was a drowned person to be collected. On emerging from the water at the end of his hunt he was confronted by an ambulance and a large policeman. After explaining the situation the policeman's comments were something about "women and visitors" which I am afraid I cannot repeat.

I should like to end this article by extending a welcome to any American service personnel in the British Isles who are interested in diving. I shall be very pleased to see them any time whatsoever at the Channel Islands Aqua Sports Centre.



N. Froome of the Guernsey Island skin divers with one of their outstanding catches of the year, a 40 pound Conger Eel.



Charles Fremdling Jr., residing in Costa Mesa, Calif., has announced his now position as a manufacturer's representative on his own. Chuck was formerly manufacturer's representative for U.S. Divers Co., Wefco Rubber Mfg., Water Wear Corp., and recently in the past two years with the Swimaster Division of Pacific Moulded Products.

He has also in the past year been associated with Voit in a training program throughout the U.S., training their sales representatives in the use of underwater equipment.

Chuck Fremdling is a Los Angeles Certified County Instructor in skin diving and is at present working a great deal with the dealer trade in water safety.

Some of Chuck's lines consist of Swimaster products such as Duck Feet and Wide View mask; Penguin underwater wet and dry suits; Catalina water skis; Wefco boat rollers; Continental boat trailers, and Dodger's newest and fastest twelve-foot water ski boat.

His home address is 648 Ross St., Costa Mesa, Calif., phone LIberty 8-3683, and office is located at 2922 Fisk Lane in Redondo Beach, phone Frontier 9-0959.



DIVERS FLAG

Means: Caution, Diver Down.

Surface craft are requested to maintain a distance of 30 yards.

SKIN DIVER **TOUR TO** HAWAII ANNOUNCED

Skin Diver Magazine has recently completed arrangements with Transocean Airlines for a fabulous eight day tour of Hawaii. This diving tour will include almost five and a half days of underwater spearfishing, shell collecting and photography at the fabled island plus the usual tourist attractions.

The tour is scheduled to start at the Lockheed Air Terminal in Burbank, California on September 5, 1958 and will continue until the return to the same airport on September 13. A price of \$297 has been set up for the skin diver tour and this economy figure includes almost everything you will have a chance to do during the stay on the islands. Accommodations have been made for the luxurious Waikiki Surf Hotel near the world-famous Waikiki Beach, from this "fun spot of Honolulu" the divers will journey to the favored underwater locations and to the island attractions.

Tour guide for the divers on this



Tookie Evans, experienced skin spearfisherman, who will act as guide for the underwater tour of Hawaii. Divers will find the best locations for underwater photography, shell collecting, spearfishing.



Underwater attractions of Hawaii will compete with the above scene as the group of skin divers and their wives on the Transocean Airlines Tour take in the submerged splendor of the volcanic rock formations, clear water, abundant flora and fauna for eight breath-taking days.

underwater jaunt will be Tookie Evans, who is an ardent island skin diver as well as: disc jockey on station KIKI, water skier, surfer, dive shop manager, and sports car racer. Tookie has a past record of deep dives, underwater salvage and rescue, treasure hunting plus some outstanding underwater spearfishing catches. He has trained hundreds of divers in the proficient use of scuba gear and was one of the instigators of the Hawaiian Skin Diving Association. You couldn't ask for a better man to guide you to the best places for underwater exploration around the islands.

Tour divers will be taken on outrigger canoe rides, and will visit fascinating tropical gardens. An authentic Hawaiian Luau (native feast) is planned. an Aloha dinner on the evening of departure, plus many other special fea-

Honolulu, on the Island of Oahu, is the trade center of the Hawaiian chain and center of tourist activities. On a tour of the Island, the visitor rides through the lush green canyon where wild tropical flowers bloom abundantly to the top of the Pali. From this historic lookout, buffeted by the trade winds, he sees native villages where life goes on in its age-old easy manner, rolling plantations of sugar cane and pineapple, miles of sandy beaches and then back to the bustling metropolis of Honolulu and Waikiki.

The traditional spirit of Aloha and the friendly manner of the Hawaiians makes even the newest malahini relax in the pleasant atmosphere where the strum of ukuleles, swaying of coconut palms and the fragrant scent of ginger



61 pound Striped Bass. One of the largest Striped Bass on record is reported by Mal Ker of Sea Girt, N.J. The fish was four feet, five inches long and took diver Ker only minutes to land as he managed a spine shot.

blossoms replace the constant bustle of life back home. The divers are not restricted to merely one week. Those who wish to remain longer may do so by simply assuming their own hotel bill at the conclusion of the tour and return on one of Transocean's flights at a later date at no extra cost.

This exciting and adventurous tour starts in September, Make your reservations now and be assured of an exciting vacation this year. Keep in mind too, that this is the first and only planned air trip ever arranged for divers to the enchanting Hawaiian Islands. Trip cost is only \$316, including all of the romantic attractions. pum

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district.

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SKIN D

MARLBOROUGH KIWIS

Far away in the south of the Blue Pacific is a small group of Islands called New Zealand. Many Americans will recognize the name in connection with the expeditions to the South Pole region since it is one of the stopping places for the Deep Freeze Expedition. There are two large islands named North Island and South Island and geveral smaller, outlying islands which make up the group. However, in the top half of South Island a small portion of the country is marked off on the map and labelled, Marlborough. This district is important for one or two reasons, the airport, the farming, the training base for young airmen, and SKIN DIVING. Perhaps I am presuming a little much by calling the latter an important part of Marlborough, but for a small group of Marlburians, (Self included) skin diving has indeed become the most important reason for being alive and living in this particular

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Although the waters may be warmer in the far North we believe that we have the best all-year-round conditions in our sea coasts of Marlborough for skin diving activities. We have approximately 1500 miles of sea coast to work on taking in the whole of the Marlborough Sounds area which is well known in New Zealand for being a popular water playground. However, only comparatively few Kiwis have as yet joined the underwater fraternity and the general public still looks upon diving as a rather dangerous sport, to be enjoyed by the foolhardy only. However, we have a newly formed Underwater Club here in Marlborough which is officially known as the Marlborough Underwater Club (Inc.) and we have adopted the Seahorse as our "coat of arms." At the moment we have about 30 active members and about the same number of interested onlookers. Our dub rooms are situated in the principal town of Blenheim and the nearest sea coast is only 12 miles away.

Since the inauguration of the club in April of 1957 we have done a great deal of exploration around the district and have been carrying out trips and outings every weekend right through the winter months. In the winter the water temperature drops to about 50° and rises to about 65° during the summer. This means that it is necessary for us to wear rubber suits practically the whole year round which makes the sport a little more expensive for some. However, it is really worth while when of blue cod, butterfish, crayfish and oysters, etc.

Since this is the first time in the history of the Sounds that underwater men have been known, there is a great deal of interest shown by residents and farmers in that area, with regard to salvage work. There must be thousands of lost anchors and moorings and all kinds of valuable equipment which has been lost from launches and barges. All the travelling around the Sounds is done by launches as there are no roads between the farms due to the steep hilly terrain.

Naturally most of the boys are interested in the spearfishing and they have had some very good catches of our favorite Butterfish. But on any outing someone just has to find a crayfish colony and everyone drops spears and puts on gloves to dive for crays. Our crayfish although considerably smaller than the American Lobster, is nevertheless a very tasty and popular sea food and I might go so far as to

we are rewarded by wonderful catches say that most of the boys in the club are "crayfish addicts." However, now that the first excitement and novelty of underwater is wearing off we are becoming more serious minded about the sport and some of us are beginning studies of underwater life, plants and conditions. The secretary of the club, myself and my husband are intent on collecting a complete list and specimens of all the plant life in the Sounds area and at the same time we are learning to identify all species of fish in these waters. This is an absorbing hobby and one at which I myself, could spend all day if circumstances permitted.

After reading stories of underwater activities from all over the world, we have come to the conclusion that all skin divers think alike, act alike and are generally like one big happy family. We certainly hope if any skin diver from overseas visits New Zealand that he will make a point of coming to Marlborough where he will be entertained by our club and made very wel-



Complete dress for the underwater Marlborough skin divers includes rubber suit for the 50 to 65 degree water. Above Pat Hall and friend face the camera before charging out into the blue-green depths of the Marlborough Sounds. December 1957.



. . . Mail was tremendous, this month, and the photos—well—I think you'll agree a more gorgeous gaggle of pretties never graced a more deserving page. Again, I should like to remind you that color pix are strictly from regretful-nein around this fictitious wharf. Some of you charming characters have been generously sending in really terrific color photos, and—while I have enjoyed feasting the eyes upon them—it's my sorrowful duty to be able to use only good clear Black & White photographs in this outrage which we perpetuate upon ourselves, you and I. Now, if you've finished your coffee, I'll race you down to the edge of the tumbling, frothy comment . . .

DEPARTMENT OF WHO & WHERE . . .

Surprised? I guess that this is your first letter from Finland. Am I right? I'm a skin diver, only 18-years old but still a skin diver. I'm fully equipped: a front-entry dry suit (from U.S.A.), an aqua-lung (of German make), basic equipment, UW camera case, harpoon gun and rubber-powered hand spear. If anybody would like info on diving in Finland, I'll try to answer you as well as I can.

BORIS WINTERHALTER Lauttasaari, Iso Kaari 10, B, 41 Helsinki, Finland

Sure, I'm surprised; but then, I'm a chronically-surprised type.

Ah figgered iffen ah ast yuh, mebbee yuh could put somethin' in thet thar Woodpile Page of yourn tuh kinda he'p this here feller, George Judson, Jr., get letters frum ennybody what knows the fresh water lakes down Florida way, and mebee give him the facts about divin' down there. This Judson feller (an' his whole kit and ki-boodle) air aplannin' tuh head thataway this next summer. Ennybody wantin' to drap him some hand-scratchin' kin reach him at: George Judson, Jr., Route #2, Box 291, San Antonio, Texas.

OLD SAN 'TONE SALLY San Antonio, Texas

I see you hiding behind that Texas brogue, Peggy Marie Walker.

I am in need of some information. Who in the devil can I dive with, up here, in this "Little Alaska"? I have inquired in Boston about skin divers, but nobody seems to know anything about the whereabouts of divers near here. I surely would like to find someone for a diving buddy before I ship my gear up here to Fort Devens.

PVT. MICHAEL E. HOGAN RA 13628944 Company H, U.S. ASA SR Fort Devens, Massachusetts

Will some kind-hearted Yankee set him straight?

I would like to answer Mona Mac Olsen's letter. To me she sounds like a non-swimming diver. I feel people like her are not worthy of a pair of fins and a mask. If she has any thoughts, I wish she would keep them to her water-logged self. As far as being "useless" goes—I don't think any diver is completely useless.

JOHN CAHILL Boston, Massachusetts

Including Mona Mae Olsen?

Aw, come on, Carl! I didn't mean to hurt your feelings. Where's your fighting spirit, anyhow?

LAURA LOUISE HALES Corvallis, Oregon

Now, listen here, Ma Hales . . .

Very grudgingly, I should like to tell you my husband and I have enjoyed Driftwood since it was started; and, frankly, we look for it with great anticipation each month when our copy of the DIVER arrives. It's our opinion you could be a lot nicer to the people who write in. Surely a more positive attitude would make even more fans for your feature, wouldn't it?

MARY BETH JONES Los Angeles, California

You leave me and my negative-adjustments alone, Madam, and I will not knock you and your sweetness & light outlook. This is commonly known as the Kohler Law Of Equality.

We have a new diving club here and are trying to think up a simple emblem. Our club is called Sonoma County Reef Runners. We would appreciate any ideas of yours.

DEE McDANIEL 3330 Santa Rosa Avenue Santa Rosa, California

This may arrive as a cruel shock to you: Pete Millar and 1 are always delighted to work up ideas providing the client understands ideas are our business and is willing to pay accordingly.

Only a couple of times have I seen club reports from Santa Cruz, California clubs. I have checked with the ones that have been published: They won't accept anyone for membership under 21-years of age. I'm 14-years old. So, you can see, there's no possible way for me to join any of these clubs. It's been pretty difficult for me to dig up a partner. If anyone knows of a diving organization—in Santa Cruz or vicinity—or even an older person, nearby, willing to give me a few pointers (an occasional dive?), I would certainly appreciate hearing from them.

DENNIS FITCH 203 Third Street Santa Cruz, California

Since equipment houses and dealers are legally allowed to sell diving supplies to minors, and since there is an appalling lack of interest on the part of experienced divers as to the safety of the younger fry becoming active in the sport—there will be any number of teenage accidents this year, which may have been prevented—for the most part—had more diving clubs setup Junior Auxiliary Clubs for the express purpose of teaching the youngsters how to use their equipment safely and sanely. I fully realize a percentage of willful, uncooperative teenagers own equipment and these little cretins wouldn't accept qualified training even were it offered them; but I also know there are many, many kids who are forced to learn diving through hazardous self-taught, experimental methods . . . and I blame the experienced, disinterested adult divers for this stupid, unnecessary situation. Anybody, around Santa Cruz, interested in giving Dennis training which will help him this year?



DEPARTMENT OF SHEER, BREATHTAKING BEAUTY . . .

Enclosed, a pic of the most humding-iest skin diveress on the New Zealand coastline—Barbara Lavin. She's my girl and never misses a trip with me.

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IAN A. PORTER Auckland, New Zealand

Your selfishness is understandable, mate, after a good look at Miss Lavin.

SKIN DIVER-March, 1958

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After reading your tearful plea for pictures, I'm sending along a couple of photos: The guy with the Hawaiian Sling is myself, the girl happens to be my sister. We're teenagers and we think Driftwood is tops. The only trouble with diving in Florida waters nowadays, is, you stand a good chance of being clobbered by a stray rocket. Even California can't top that.

> RON SUMMERS Fort Lauderdale, Florida

We don't have to top it: WE got moompitcher stars and all like that. Your sis is a real honey . . . and I imagine there are girls in the audience who would rate you very highly in the Greek God Department, Ron.



It's a pleasure to cooperate with you and help you fill the page by sending this picture consisting of: Kay Kennedy (President of the Club), myself (to her right), Past President, and our spearfishing-craving members. If you can find space—give my regards to the K.S.S.D.'s over yonder.

> D. ARNEST Kyushu Sensiufu Skin Divers Malmstrom A.F.B., Montana

That Kennedy's a very beautiful woman. How in hell did you ever manage to allow The Brass to ship you out to the hinterlands and away from a wonderful-looking diving club?

I'm 18-years old, have light blonde hair, blue eyes; weigh 115-pounds, stand 5'4" and measure 35/24/35. My boyfriend and I



belong to the Underwater Club of Canada. Although I haven't done any real diving yet, I am looking forward to it this summer . . . with the club (and my boyfriend). I enjoy Driftwood very much.

CAROL BOYKO 46 Bexhill Avenue Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Gawjus, absolutely gawjus . . .

DEPARTMENT OF OFFBEAT INTELLECTUALISM . . .

I'll be going to Washington, D. C. on a class trip, this spring, and I wonder if there are any good diving spots around there. Why not give cheap pins to people who get their letters printed in Driftwood? Even better, why not sell them two-for-10c?

BILL MICKELSON

1 Beaver Road Churchville, New York

Now, looky here, William . . .

PEN (You Should Excuse The Expression) PALS . . .

JIM ZIMPER (16) 341 Wabash Avenue Kenmore 17, New York GLENN WESTER (112) 514½ Danberry Street Toledo, Ohio

BARRY CONNAWAY (17) 54 Fore Street Exmouth, Devon, England JOHN McNAMARA (15) The Chaddock School Quincy, Illinois

GEORGE CURRY 724 East Gates Street

Columbus 6, Ohio . . Wants to contact divers in his area to add members for a club being formed.

DEPARTMENT OF LAST-MINUTE QUESTIONS . .

I'm fairly new to the skin diving sport (only started last summer) and I'm still pretty nervous about the idea of diving, in the event that a shark—even a small shark—shows up anywhere near me. Some of the fellows tell me I'm worrying for nothing; and other guys tell me I'll be in real trouble if I meet a shark in open water. Would you, please, settle this whole matter, Kohler?

DEBBIE LOU MERRILL San Luis Obispo, California

Well, honey—never dive by yourself, find a boyfriend who has had (preferably) several years diving experience, keep to protected areas until you achieve confidence in your ability to take care of yourself in the water—and, if you really want to feel safe as you'd be in your own frontroom, stay on the beach like a good kid and keep the coffee bubbling.

My girl refuses to let me teach her skin diving. She says it's much too dangerous and that I'm just trying to 'play hero' by spending all my sparetime in the water. What do you suggest I tell her?

HAROLD C. WILLIAMS San Francisco, California

Well, tell the little doll there are plenty of other very gorgeous girls who LIKE skin diving and only wish they knew a guy who would take them diving.

THIS MONTH'S GOLDEN THOUGHT: I have absolute proof, Mister Chairman, that my spear struck the sea-monster . . . first; and if my brother-member says otherwise, then he's a

... well, I think that about kisses it good night for this dip. Remember: send only Black & White photos—and keep them coming. Personally, I think it's very generous of some of the guys to share pictures of their dazzling beauties with us (and equally generous of the little lovables who modestly send in their own snapshots); and I have heard it said that this place is definitely improved with all this visual ornamentation. If you think otherwise-write me all about it: we can use the screwball mail to balance the fearfully conservative souls. Until you swim out here, where we can giggle it up, next month .

uncle relhok, talent scout 1/C

A FTER reading and re-reading the intriguing article by Larry Bess, in the June, 1957 issue of "Skin Diver," I helped my wife Dot, make up her mind (mine was already made up) that the Bahamas were the best place for us to spend our vacation this summer. Dot hated the water until a few years ago when I taught her to snorkel, but last year she won a trophy as the Women's Champion Snorkeler of the Toledo Sub-Mariners of Northwestern Ohio.

Having sons Don Jr., Jim, Dave and a daughter-in-law Carol, who are all avid skin divers, helped to fan the spark of my desire into a regular conflagration by the time we were ready to leave.

I tapped every available source of information in order to find out all I could about the Bahamas. I visited local libraries, the Auto Club and travel agencies and wrote to Nassau, Bahamas Development Board, 308 British Empire Building, 620 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, New York. The Development Board sent me a large envelope of useful material and by the time we were ready to leave, I had learned so much about the Bahamas, I felt like I may have lived there for awhile.

I wrote over a dozen letters to hotels, apartments, tourists homes and skin diver guides regarding costs and accommodations etc., and found a variance of prices from \$50.00 a day a double American plan to \$6.00 a day a double European plan. I learned that you can find any kind of accommodations you want in Nassau.

My wife Dot, son Dave and myself, with Lee Johns of Monroe, Michigan, all members of the Toledo Sub Mariners, left Toledo, Ohio, August 7th, and arrived at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida August 9th. We stayed overnight at the

Bahia, Cabana, a beautiful motel at 3001 Harbor Drive, as we wanted to continue to practice diving and this motel is about 100 yards from the ocean and also has a crystal clear pool which is lighted at night.

The next morning we left our car parked at the airport and flew to Nassau via Mackey Airlines in a DC4. The 185 mile flight only costs \$30.00 round trip and takes 55 minutes.

I've flown a lot, but the flight from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to Nassau is without any doubt one of the most beautiful flights that I've ever taken anywhere. On the flight, I took colored movies of sand dunes and rivers under the surface of the ocean and water and reefs too colorful to describe in words. The view from the plane is truly breathtaking.

Soon we were flying over tropical New Providence Island with its many beautiful beaches, fringed with palm trees and nearby coral reefs.

We checked in at Mitchell's Cottage on West Street in Nassau, and found it to have all the comforts of home. Then we rented a small English car called a "Morris" for \$10.00 a day, loaded our diving gear and were soon on our way out of Nassau, west toward a good beach where we could park our car and swim out to the nearest reefs in search of adventure.

About five miles out of town, the lure of the beautiful blue ocean "got us," so we parked and made ready for our first dive

My main purpose on this trip was to take colored movies of the underwater world so my family and friends could relive our adventure (by movies) anytime we chose.

I dived to the bottom and took a light meter reading and set my cameras to

F 4.5 at 45 feet. I loaded both underwater cameras with standard Kodachrome (Daylight Type) film. Dave got his Hawaiian Lance ready for action, Lee and I took the cameras and off we swam into the wild blue yonder. Dot was lookout for sharks and barracuda. Believe me it was wild. We saw fish of every size, shape, hue and color. The reefs were rugged and covered with sea fans, plumes, sea urchins and colorful coral of many varieties. It didn't take long to shoot a hundred feet of colored movie film in that setting. I only had 1,000 feet of movies and 250 slides, so we had to be somewhat selective.

Dave shot several fish and they put up quite a fight on the end of an eight foot lance.

All of a sudden I looked down on a sting ray as big as all the others put together. In fact I was right over the ray with the upper part of my body when I spotted him and I had a lew anxious moments as I glided over his wide dark body, partly camouflaged with sand. When I saw the length of that whiplike tail, I realized how easily he could slash me as I continued to swim over him. I believe he must have been resting, half asleep there on the floor of the ocean for he never moved.

We met a most attractive Bahamian girl who took us to Lyford Cay on the western end of the island. Dot and I stayed within a couple blocks of shore, but Lee and Dave and the girl, who was a terrific swimmer, swam far out into the ocean with flippers, masks and snorkels. Dave saw a small leopard whip ray and foolishly swam down to it and pinched its tail at the very tip in order to see some action (and also to show off for the good looking girl.) The little ray took off with a burst of speed as expected. When the divers caught up with him again, lying quietly on a reef,

NASSAU UNDERWATER VACATION

By DON LEA, Sr.

Lee pok ray's rig the ray's his right inch lor stung ar is not o things, l to it.

not war far off s a bleedi swimmir reached pain. W more bl get rid and ap drove n Nassau. emergen lying on tor was of both The medicin

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Lee poked his finger on the edge of the ray's right wing. Quick as lightning, the ray's tail struck Lee on the side of his right hand making a cut about one inch long and a quarter inch deep. It stung and burned like fire, but as Lee is not one to be perturbed over trivial things, he, at first, paid little attention to it.

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It continued to bleed profusely, so not wanting to be in the ocean that far off shore in shark infested water, in a bleeding condition, Lee wisely started swimming for the beach. Before he reached shore his whole arm was paralyzed and useless, but thumping with pain. We did what we could to induce more bleeding which we hoped would get rid of as much poison as possible, and applied a tourniquet, then we drove madly back to the hospital in Nassau. When we dashed into the emergency room, there was a swimmer lying on the emergency table. The doctor was picking sea urchin needles out of both of the man's feet.

The doctor quickly gave Lee some medicine, dressed his wound and gave him two kinds of pills to take and released him. Incidentally, when we offered to pay the doctor, he refused to accept a fee. Needless to say, we were all quite concerned about Lee that night, for even with the medicine, it was plain to see that he was in considerable pain for about four hours after the sting. We all learned, at his expense, that it doesn't pay to tickle sting rays.

The next day we chartered a boat, the Jay Bee of Nassau, from Capt. Bernie Butler, who is one of the most proficient skin divers I have ever met. He makes a business of taking out parties of divers and his boat is well equipped for this purpose, air compressor and all. Capt. Butler took us to the wreck of a metal ship which blew up and sunk in 1918 only a few miles out of Nassau Harbor. We dived on this wreck for over two hours.

Strange how many fish stay around a wreck. This one was no exception. We swam through clouds of fish and took



Wreck exploring in Nassau means hours of pleasure.

pictures of many varieties. We all used our scuba until we were out of air and then continued to snorkel dive for another hour or so.

It was a skin diver's dream come true. The ship was covered with coral, fans, plumes, undersea flora of all varieties and literally alive with colorful fish of every description.

Capt. Butler frowned on the use of a "lung" as he was able to dive down forty to fifty feet with his Hawaiian Sling and glide along in great comfort for a considerable length of time stalking a fish and he seldom came up without one. As far as spearfishing is concerned, the better Bahamian skin divers have no need for scuba.

By now we were all quite used to the tropical climate and didn't feel the 82 degree heat nearly as much as we would have in the "States" for there is always a breeze blowing on little New Providence Island which is only seven miles wide and twenty-one miles long.

We started out quite early one morning in our little "Morris" for the sea gardens on the west end of the Island. We parked our car off the road near the beach and carefully hid all our watches, travelers checks and cash in the

trunk of the car and then hid the key to the trunk. Soon we were in the water observing new and stranger undersea life than we had yet seen.

We had been diving for over an hour and having such a grand time spear fishing, catching huge lobsters and taking pictures, that we paid little attention to our car. Why should we when we were in a desolate spot with no one else in sight?

When we came out of the water all bubbling with enthusiasm and happy over our wonderful dive, we were horrified to find the key in the trunk and the purses and moneybelt stripped of the cash they had contained. Our other cameras, watches and even the traveler checks were not taken. The thief wanted only cash and realized that bathers cannot carry money into the ocean with them, and leave it locked in their cars. Evidently the thief was watching us from the nearby jungle and saw just where the purses and the key were hidden for they didn't disturb anything else in getting to the money. Of course we reported the theft and Scotland Yard of Nassau is still working

This loss caused us to change our menu to bologna sandwiches for the rest of our stay in Nassau and leave a week earlier than we had planned. We learned that stealing from cars is a rather common occurrence around Nassau and feel it should be mentioned so future divers will be more careful and profit by our foolish mistake.

Thus ended an otherwise perfect vacation in Nassau. We are going back and next time we'll carry only Travelers Checks!! However, to end on a more cheerful note, I'm glad to report that my movie film just arrived from the processor and it all came out perfect so I'm quite happy and satisfied with my Vacation Underwater in Nassau.



The sling type spear is best for the fish of the clear water reefs around Nassau.

NORTHEAST NOTES

By B. W. LUTHER, JR.

Northeast Council of Skin Diving Clubs, P. O. Box 225, Fairhaven, Mass.



The first of four yearly meetings to be held by the Northeast Council of Skin Diving Clubs, Inc. for delegates



Brad Luther

and friends, was held at council headquarters January 12th. Club delegates from the following clubs were present: Maine Marine Alpine Club, Bay State Aqua Club, Worcester Frogmen, Fairhaven Whalers Skin Diving

Club, New England Divers, New Hampshire Sea Skates, South Shore Neptunes, Aquatiers Diving Club, Worcester County Spearfishermen Club, Leominster C. D. Rescue Divers, Boston Sea Rovers, and the Rhode Island Underwater Spearfishing Club.

Officers and Directors were introduced to the delegates and each spoke briefly concerning his area clubs and his hopes and plans for the future. Attorney George K. Shamgochian, the Council's newly appointed Judge Advocate was introduced to the delegates. After necessary reports were heard, important questions concerning policies for the coming year were brought to the floor for discussion. Since some of the questions raised might constitute a By-Law change, the Judge Advocate suggested that the proposals be postponed until he can meet with the Board of Directors.

Walter Feinberg, of the Boston Sea Rovers, displayed his club's 1958 tide calendar, which they are making available to their friends. Walter also informed the meeting about the Boston Sea Rovers Skin Diving Clinic which will be presented in May.

Jerry Comeau, of the Bay State Aqua Club, displayed posters that his club had prepared for the New England Sportsman Show. The Bay State Aqua Club will have a booth and a diving tank in the show, and the posters, explaining the new "Divers Flag," will be scattered throughout the show where all may become acquainted with it.

As of January 12th, the council was pleased to report that they have nine

registered clubs with many more to follow. The nine clubs, the Bay State Agua Club, the New Hampshire Sea Skates, the New England Divers Frogmen Club, the Northeast Cine Divers, the Worcester Frogmen, the M.D.A. Tech Section, the Lewisten Auburn Divers Association, the Maine Marine Alpine Club, and the Fairhaven Whalers Skin Diving Club, were presented with their 1958 dues cards and stickers by the President of the Northeast Council. Conditions permitting, the Council hopes to present to each member club a Divers Flag inscribed with the club's name.

Since clubs are organizing in the western section of Massachusetts, the delegates advised the Directors that area Directorships be revised to provide better coverage for this section.

As author of these "Notes" and secre-tary of the Council, I requested from the clubs present information about club activities for this column. This same request applies to all the clubs within the Northeast area.

Vice President Jack Whelan presented his Tournament Program as previously accepted by the Board of Directors and outlined in the February issue of "Skin Diver." Further details about the Treasure Hunt held February 23rd were explained by Jack.

Election of officers in the clubs has produced these reported changes. Results of the Maine Marine Alpine Club: President, Joseph H. Gallant; Vice President, Richard Carven; Treasurer, Harry P. Thompson: and Secretary, Marjorie Turner. Elected to the Board of Directors were Ross Andrews, Raymond Forest and Bernard Freedman.

The new address of the Rhode Island Spearfishing Club is Box 504, Conimicut. Newly elected officers are: President, Frank Daigneault; Vice President, Walter Blackington; and Secretary-Treasurer, Edna Blackington. At the recent club banquet, Edna Blackington was awarded the club's "Most Valuable Member of the Year" trophy.

Southern California . . .

DIVE SHOP CHATTER

By CHUCK FREMDLING

The Aquatic Center, formerly of Anaheim, Calif., has just recently moved to their new location, 4323 W. Coast Hwy. in Newport Beach,



Chuck Fremdling

They open early at 7 a.m. on Sunday for you early birds.

Don and George Brauer have finally located a spot for their new skin and scuba diving equipment operations. Their address is 17043 Lakewood Blvd., Bellflower, Calif. By summer they will have a swimming pool for your convenience, where you can be taught your first underwater diving lessons before entering the ocean.

Duvall's Marine Shop, 3855 W. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., now handling skin diving equipment, have the Johnson outboard motor line along with their boats. My apologies, Mr. Farnsworth, for making a mistake in my last "Skin Diver" column on a wrong named product.

Dive N' Surf have moved to their new location in Redondo Beach, Calif. Their new address is 540 N. Broadway in the same city. Both Meistrell brothers are announcing the addition of a large swimming pool to help instruct the individual on basic steps of water safety before plunging into the depths of the ocean. Both men are Certified Los Angeles County Instructors on skin and scuba. You beginners pay them a visit and while there look at their line of boats and motors.

Hoskin and Son Watersports, 1220 W. Coast Hwy., in Newport Beach, Calif., have enlarged their underwater diving department. Young Hoskin has installed a swimming pool at his home for the convenience of the beginners, too. Having one of the largest display of boats and motors in Southern California, it's a pleasure to drop in and see their boat show that is continuously showing.

Penguin, Inc., 2493 Atlantic Blvd., Long Beach, Calif., has just recently acquired a large aquarium for their store. Ken Luther, manager, and his lovely wife, Billie, have caught many species of undersea life to add to the interest of those wishing to see what goes on in the great depths.

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WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF SKIN DIVING CLUBS

By John Joachims

c/o KAYO, 2939 4th Ave. So. Seattle 4, Washington

It was Sunday, January 19th, a calm cold day in the Northwest grayed slightly from the fog. The waters in Puget Sound were increasing in murkiness until visibility clouded down to a few feet giving the two old sunken wrecks in Edmonds harbor an erie ghostlike glow, with the sleepy phantom shapes of weird fish hovering about them. That was the situation until about 11 o'clock when a sharp whistle blew, a cry pierced the air and 96 divers "smacked" into the water.

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The third annual Mudshark underwater spearfishing tournament had started. From then on it was a game of peek-a-boo for fish and divers inside, outside and around the two sunken wrecks. Bill Hook of Victoria showed the Seattle boys up by spearing a 163/4 pound Ling Cod and some other slightly smaller Lings were taken. Honors for the meet however went to the mighty Mudsharks whose three teams copped all three places in total aggregate poundage of fish taken. First place winners were Gary Keffler, John Tallman and Bill Metz who speared 62 pounds 12 oz. Ling Cod, Rock Cod and Cabazones with the two other Mudshark teams taking 51 lbs. 4 oz. and 44 lbs. 4 oz. of fish respectively.

Although poor visibility has hampered diving, some areas are still excellent with clubs reporting record outings. The Nor-West Divers upped anchor on their 36 foot craft "Skin Diver" January 15th, sailed for unknown waters in Puget Sound and returned with a tale guaranteed to make Melville's great whale look like a guppie. Fifteen members of Nor-West took limits (20 pounds and one fish) in five minutes of spearing. The largest fish was a 381/2 pound Ling Cod with the average size Ling taken about 20 pounds. Honors for Nor-West Divers individual, continuing fish competition are as follows: Frank Wolf largest Rock fish, Louie Nelson, largest Cabazone and Ted Oliver special award for his man-eating flounder.

On the social skin diving calendar we have a few formal and a few informal spontaneous skin diving parties. The YMCA Divers reported terrific times had by all at their splash party, as well as big plans for a coming treasure hunt with loot to be located all over Puget Sound. Northwest Underwater Research Group had their first annual banquet



Winning Mudsharks team, Mertz, Tallman and Keffler.

with films, dancing and dinner (nearly 100% attendance too). On the informal side the Nor-West's New Year's Day party won the prize for thrills, chills and spills, consisting of water skiing on Elliott Bay in bathing suits.

"Under the Blue Junior Frogman." We didn't mean it NURG, but we do look at and enjoy your T.V. program on channel 4 in Seattle. We think it's a wonderful idea of yours to organize a Junior Frogman Club to show the youngsters by means of T.V. demonstrations the proper uses and precautions when using Scuba and skin diving

The recently formed Washington Council of Skin Diving Clubs is now planning its first State Skin Diving Championship meet. If your club wishes to enter write to Don Tait, 1010 Bellevue Court, Seattle.

The Washington Council of Divers records committee wants to remind all divers in the State of the procedure for State records. Forms must be submitted showing the weight in pounds and ounces, length, girth, specie, where caught, where weighed, witnesses, type of scale, weighmaster and date caught. Submit claims through clubs or diving

"Hey Oregon Divers how about it?" Recently we received a letter from the Emerald Aquaducks in Eugene, seems as though the Emerald Aquaducks traveled to Hoodsport on Hood Canal and were very surprised at their 'reception which was colder than the water. Upon inquiring they found these residents had many objections to Oregon divers . . . some of which were littering of private property with rubbish, disturbing oyster beds and reports of fires. How about a little cooperation in keeping Washington clean and green and saving these good diving areas, we'd hate to see these areas taken away from all skin divers.

Remember write when you get any information NORTHWEST SKIN DIV-ING ACTIVITY, John Joachims, W.C. S.D.C. in care of KAYO, 2939 4th Avenue South, Seattle 4, Wash.

Annual Directors Convention Georgia State Skin Diving Association

By Dr. Jack Wickham

An excellent program of films, lectures and discussion was held. Officers for the coming year were voted in. They are: E. D. Vezzani, chairman; Col. E. Fuchs, III, vice chairman; Dr. Jack Wickham, secretary; Dane Brisendine,

George Krasle, Spearfishing Committee Chairman, discussed six meets under A.A.U. sanction to be held March through July of the coming year. Bill Fesperman, Y.M.C.A. Physical Director and G.S.S.D.A. membership chairman, discussed the formation of nine new clubs within the state. Also a program of instruction for the State Police and Fire Departments. Chris Christiansen, Chairman, Technical Committee, reported on two years of research and development of a fiber glass reinforced 90 cu. ft. diving tank weighing only 22 pounds completely full. Dr. Jack Wickham, Publicity Chairman, outlined an intensive program both here and in Florida to promote better legislation for our sport through close cooperation with the Florida Skin Divers Association. Dane Brisendine, Trip Chairman, outlined the various trips for the coming year. GSSDA Chairman Gene Vezzani spoke on "The A.A.U.'s Position as a Leader in Competitive Skin Diving." The meeting came to a close with an honorary life membership bestowed on John A. Liles, past program director of the Atlanta YMCA and the pioneer of organized skin diving in this state.

For all new prospective clubs and members in our state for any information concerning this sport the new home and address for our association is c/o E. D. Vezzani, 66 Pryor St. NE, Atlanta,

Washington, D.C., Annual Convention . . .

Report of National A.A.U. Competitive Skin Diving Committee

Perhaps this year more than any of the previous years this annual meeting was of major importance to amateur skin divers not only in the United States and South America but also in the many European Countries actively engaged in our sport. During the four days of this meeting this committee met and discussed with many of the five hundred or more delegates attending from every part of the globe, the many problems affecting the individual skin diver, clubs and organizations.

The problems were in almost every instance the same. After three days of what seemed like endless work and after much discussion and considerations submitted by the various delegates, concerning the problems involving their particular climatic conditions, conservation laws, etc., the first National A.A.U. Competitive Skin Diving Rules were ready for the test. This committee under the very able leadership of Serge A. Birn unanimously accepted these rules, they were placed before the entire assembly of all five hundred or more delegates attending to be either voted upon or rejected. The assembly voted unanimously in favor of adopting the Rules to govern all future amateurs throughout the U.S.A. All A.A.U. State Skin Diving Chairmen will immediately receive advance copies of these rules.

During this time it was voted to award to the Grand Bahama Properties, Ltd. the 1958 National Competitive Skin Diving Championships, to be held in August in the Bahamas, the exact location to be announced. The 1957 National Champions are to receive an all expense paid trip from their State, to the competition site and back. All Regional Champions from West Palm Beach to the competition site and back. Gene D. Vezzani on motion from Mr. Irving Rosen, Registration Chairman of the Florida Association was elected to the chairmanship of this National Competitive Skin Diving Committee.

Harold Aycock, West Palm Beach; John Slack, Miami; Norman H. Schiff, New York; Marie Dessell, Warrington, Fla.; Ralph N. Davis, Calif.; Ed Miller, Tallahassee, Fla. were selected by Mr. Vezzani to serve on this committee. Ralph N. Davis was on motion elected to the position of National Publicity Director. Marie Dessell was on motion elected to the position of National Re-Districting Chairman, who will soon release for publication the newly created seven (7) districts for Regional Eliminations as originally proposed by Ralph N. Davis. George E. Krasle, Atlanta, Ga., and Harold Aycock, West Palm Beach, Fla., were named to serve on this committee.

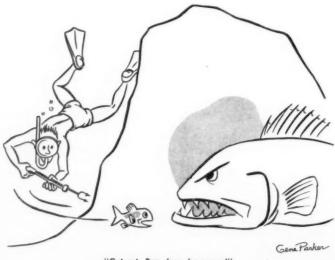
It was unanimously voted that all persons who prior to the official adoption of these Rules (January 1, 1958) had speared fish for monetary gain through the sale of these fish would be given a complete amnesty. amnesty would not include the self professed and generally accepted professionals. The reasoning by which this amnesty is given is that even though the A.A.U. had accepted tentatively a set of Rules, in fact these Rules were not specific enough and were not widely known. Under the newly adopted Rules, "the selling of speared fish in any form or manner whatsoever is a professional act." Some very important interpretations as to what would make a competitor a professional were specifically agreed upon, they are: (1) the "treasure hunt" where there is no spearing of fish whatsoever is not recognized by the A.A.U. as a competitive sport, therefore participa-tion in this by an amateur athlete will not affect the amateur's standing whatsoever, provided however, that the athlete does not enter under his A.A.U. club name, (2) an amateur and a professional may belong to the same skin diving club, however they cannot compete against one another in any open or other spearfishing events except in the case of internal club competitions, for which an

A.A.U. Sanction is not needed, (3) professional club members can compete in professional events only as individuals, in no case can they represent or be allowed to represent the A.A.U. club in such competition, (4) a person engaged in the sale of Athletic Equipment of ANY KIND or who has allowed his name to be used to advertise or promote the sale of same is a professional, (5) underwater photography, salvage diving and/or any other underwater activity where the diver derives his livelihood (excluding the spearing of fish) does not make him a professional. To sum this up, in any underwater activity that does not involve the spearing of fish, generally the diver will not be considered a professional.

It was felt by certain members attending that the official name of our sport "Competitive Skin Diving" was a misnomer, in that at present we are concerned primarily with spearfishing and therefore the name should be "competitive spearfishing." This to a large extent is true but due to the many other underwater activities awaiting acceptance by the A.A.U., such as underwater target shooting, etc., it was unanimously felt that the name should remain unchanged in order to take in these various other sports in the near future. It was agreed that Mr. Ed Miller, now the Florida Association A.A.U. Chairman for Competitive Skin Diving and a respected member of the Florida Skin Diving Association, due to his many years of loyalty and understanding in the promotion of amateur skin diving be given broad powers (within the framework of A.A.U. General Rules) over all decisions arising from and involving competitive skin diving within the state of Florida. All competitive skin divers within that state needing any information concerning their elicibility, etc., should contact Ed. Miller eligibility, etc., should contact Ed. Miller direct (c/o Miller's Bootery, Tallahassee, Florida). We were very encouraged to hear the various delegates discuss their plans for the coming year. It was noted that a very successful and gratifying meeting was held between officials of the A.A.U. (S. A. Birn, Vezzani, H. Aycock, M. Dessell) and FSDA (B. Cox, B. Duncan, H. V. Flood, J. Irving) and E. Miller representing both organizations at Winter Park, Florida on November 2, 1957. The outcome of this meeting was that the A.A.U. and FSDA will work closely together for combating, through legislative efforts, unjust spearfishing law affecting all divers within the state of Florida and (the state itself) and to work in harmony for the promotion of this sport for the good of all. It was also noted that FSDA was undergoing a complete change in its officership as well as in its constitution. The delegates attending voted unanimously to support all A.A.U. activities sponsored by the FSDA and to work in complete cooperation. It was noted that Mr. Harold Aycock, past vice chairman of this committee resigned due to health reasons. The delegates expressed their deep appreciation for the many years of fine and unselfish work that Hal had contributed for the promotion of this sport. The delegates also expressed their appreciation to Mr. Tom Lamar and Mr. Irving Rosen, President and Chairman respectively, of the Florida Association A.A.U. for their encouragement, assistance and cooperation during this convention. The incoming A.A.U. president Mr. K. Johnson asked Mr. S. Birn to serve for the 3rd year as National Chairman and Competitive Skin Diving Committee, in turn Mr. Birn approved the following: vice chairmen: E. D. Vezzani, N. H. Schiff, R. N. Davis, E. Miller, Jay Ehret Mahoney.

Respectfully submitted,

E. D. Vezzani, National Vice Chairman A.A.U. Competitive Skin Diving Committee



"Get set, Pop, here he comes!"

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SKIN DIVER-March, 1958

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Lloyd Bridges as he appears as Mike Nelson in the National TV skin diving program "Sea Hunt." Watch for it on your local station.

Skin Diving TV Feature... SEA HUNT

The ocean's depths are probed in the excitingly different "Sea Hunt" TV series with Hollywood's rugged Lloyd Bridges starring as Mike Nelson, ex-Navy frogman and undersea investigator. "Sea Hunt" visually transports audiences underwater for a series of eye-widening adventures.

In his TV role of undersea investigator, Lloyd Bridges defies the perils of shifting sands, undertows and sharks, Whether in search of clues to crimes, lost treasures or sunken ships, his assignments trigger a chain of exciting events that provide audiences with halfhour dramas teeming with thrills, excitement and suspense.

Bridges has climbed to stardom by means of his superlative performances in films such as "The Rainmaker," "Canyon Passage," "Three Steps North," "The Last of the Comanches," "High Noon" and many others. Recent television appearances too, in a number of dramatic roles, have won him the applause of critics as well as audiences.

'Sea Hunt," though far removed from the travelogue type of series, presents authentic and spectacular scenes of the fabulous undersea world as the TV camera follows the surging action of each half-hour drama.

In the production of this series with its accent on authentic underwater settings, the producer sought the coopera-



SPEARFISHING COMPETITIONS **FOR 1958**

Underwater Spearfishing competitions will be held all over the United States this year, under the able guidance of the National Competitive Skin Diving Committee, and it is expected that there will be at least eight teams at the Nationals to be held in the Bahamas. Competition procedure is as follows:

A.A.U. Association Championships: each Association will hold a competition of the underwater spearfishing clubs under their jurisdiction and then send the winning teams to the Regional meet. The suggested date for the Association Championships is July 13, 1958. Clubs should contact their local skin diving council or A.A.U. Association for complete information on their Association contest.

Regional Championships: this contest will be composed of the winning teams from the A.A.U. Associations within the Region (see map). The suggested date for the Regional Underwater Spearfishing Championships is July 27, 1958.

National Championships: each Region will send their winning team to compete in the National Championships to be held on August 17, 1958 in the Bahamas. The 1957 defending National Champions will also compete in the 1958

Clubs needing knowledge of their Association or Region should write to: E. D. Vezanni, 66 Pryor St., NE, Atlanta, Georgia.

tion of a number of authorities including Marineland of the Pacific; Submersible Operations Corp.; The Scripps Institution of Oceanography; and Commander Fane of the U.S. Navy Underwater Demolition Teams.

"Sea Hunt," produced by ZIV Television Programs, Inc., is sponsored by the Standard Stations and Chevron

A.A.U. COMPETITIVE SKIN **DIVING REGIONS**

The United States has been divided into seven regions and consist of the

West Coast Region-California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

Southeastern Region-Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina.

East Coast Region - Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Great Lakes Region-Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and that part of Missouri east of Jefferson City.

Gulf Coast Region-Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas.

Mid-Western Region-North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma and that part of Missouri west of and including Jeffer-

North Pacific Region-Oregon, Washington. Idaho and Montana.

OHIO COUNCIL OF SKIN DIVERS

The Mansfield Skin Divers are interested in forming a State Council of Skin Divers. We believe this will help all diving clubs in Ohio get proper recognition and more constructive information on diving by exchanging information and ideas. It could also set up organized competition in photography and spearfishing for Ohio clubs. From this Council we organize and train emergency groups in all sections of Ohio. Write your views and ideas for the Council to: Gene Florence, Mansfield Skin Divers, 513 Rembrandt Street, Mansfield, Ohio.

ONE of the meetings of the Contra Costa DIABLO DIVERS, secretary Don Knudsen had brought a piece of lade worth \$75. He gave a talk on the subject and told how two of his friends went to Jade Cove at a minus low tide and found the piece of Jade. Good

Jade will bring \$5 a pound.

Frank Fribley who was sitting next to me looked at me the same time I had looked over at him. We apparently had the same idea. After the meeting we went up and found out how to get to Jade Cove from Don. Before we left the meeting we announced our plans and said, "Anybody was welcome to come along." As it turned out no one could make it. On the way home from the meeting Frank and I were talking and making plans. If we could find a good size piece of Jade we could probably pay the money off on our diving equipment.

We left from Walnut Creek on a Saturday evening about 8:00 and arrived in Monterey at 11:00 and stayed at a public camp ground. Brilliant rays of sunshine awakened us at 9:00. We dressed hurriedly and went into town for some breakfast. On the way out of town we stopped for some gas, then headed down south along the coast towards San Simeon. We drove for about two hours and started wondering if we hadn't passed our objective. We kept driving until we saw a sign that read "San Simeon." We looked around for a town but all we could see was a trailer camp. I stopped the stationwagon and turned around. We drove a few hundred yards and then we saw the road down to San Simeon.

We finally found our destination. I pulled off to the side of the road and we got out. We looked around but couldn't figure out where the cove was. Frank spotted a path about one quarter of a mile long, leading down to the cliff. We hoisted our 60 pounds of equipment and started down. It didn't take long to get there, but we looked up and dreaded to think about the climb up. As it always seems, the other end of the beach looks better than where you are. We finally settled on a location half a mile further on. We put our equipment on the tarp and began to suit up. We put our lungs on and started out through the breakers.

The water was blue and calm and we had about 50 foot visibility. The deepest we went that day was 45 feet. I sat down just outside a kelp bed and watched four perch come up and swim curiously around me. I motioned Frank to come in the kelp with me.

We each had a burlap sack and we started looking for Jade. I was working 15 feet away from Frank. I looked over and he was motioning me to come over to him. He had found a spot between

2000 YEARS **T00** SOON

BOB STALEY

some rocks which was full of sand. Don had told us to dig in the sand if we wanted any Jade.

We were digging with our hands in the sand when Frank uncovered the top of a rock. We put it in his sack and continued looking. We each picked up five or six rocks we thought might be pay dirt, and headed for shore. The rocks we had picked up were pretty big and gave us a bad time. I wondered what Frnak was doing when he put his sack into mine, then he took hold of one side and I took the other end and walked to shore.

We skinned off our suits and played in the breakers for a while. We got out and dried off and put the rocks into one bag. Jade comes in many shades of green and black, so we kept them all and then went up to dinner.

In the middle of dinner we spotted a man carrying a deer rifle. He came out of the shrubbery and onto the highway about fifty yards from us. He came towards the car and we could see the rifle was a lever action 30-30. When he reached us he opened the chamber which put us at ease. He asked us if we were hunting for Jade down on the beach. When we told him we were, he suggested we go to Jade Cove. Again our destination had alluded us. He informed us we were on Jade Beach, and the Cove was about half mile down from where we were.

It was cold that night and in the morning Frank had a hard time getting me out of the sleeping bag. We ate the breakfast we had cooked ourselves and were on the beach by 8:30. suited up and were in the water by 9:00. We kept on swimming on the surface for about a quarter of a mile. The water had gotten pretty rough since the day before. When we reached the kelp bed we submerged to about 55 feet and tried to stand on the bottom. We had our burlap sacks but didn't bring a float, and that's the last time we will ever dive without a float. The swells were throwing us all over the bottom and we had to hold onto the kelp to keep from being dashed against the rocks.

There were some specimens that looked like they were Jade to our untrained eyes; I had about four big pieces in my sack. I didn't think I should get too much because it was going to be a rough swim back to shore. I saw Frank about ten feet away. I fought my way over to him, grabbed him on the leg and motioned to head back. He motioned OK and we surfaced.

We agreed it was going to be a helluva swim back. We put air in our suits but it was still real hard to swim with the rough water and the weight of the rocks. I took the lead and kept glancing back occasionally to make sure Frank was still coming. All the way back I kept kicking myself for not bringing my float. We kept on going, becoming more and more exhausted with each

I had pulled some distance ahead of Frank. I had forgotten to keep a watch for big waves when one broke over me. I lost my sack of rocks and mouth piece, I choked on a mouth full of salt water as I gasped for air. I caught the mouth piece and headed for some rocks to my left. They were no more than twenty feet away, but when I reached them I was so exhausted I couldn't pull myself

I rested for a minute clinging to the rocks when a wave lifted me up and set me down on the top. Completely exhausted I closed my eyes for a moment and thanked God for my deliverance. Suddenly panic struck-in my struggle to reach the rocks I had forgotten about Frank. A hurried glance at the tremendous waters revealed nothing. I spotted him about fifty feet away as he rode the crest of the wave. He took his mouth piece out of his mouth and yelled he was going on in. I rested for about 15 minutes, walked over the rock to the other side and climbed into the churning sea.

We packed our gear and headed back to the car. For a while I didn't think I was going to make it up the cliff.

We gave the Jade to Don the next day and he had it checked at work. We went over later and he handed us the rock we had dug up out of the sand and said "This rock is worth \$1500. All you have to do is wait 2000 years."

Even though we didn't get rich we sure had a lot of fun.

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BIDS ACCEPTED

Women's Pacific Coast Underwater **Spearfishing Competition** Sanctioned by the A.A.U.

Bids are open or invitational to organizations interested in sponsoring the Second Annual Women's Pacific Coast Underwater Spearfishing Competition to be held on July 27, 1958.

Bids tendered should be in writing and sent to Kate Miller, 3001 Stanford St., Venice, California no

later than April 1.

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Book Review . . . "SHIPWRECKS OF THE PACIFIC COAST"

By James A. Gibbs, Jr.

The first detailed account in one book of all major marine disasters off the west coast of the United States-Shipwrecks of the Pacific Coast is facts, with the pace of fiction, of hundreds of harrowing sea adventures on one of the world's most treacherous seas.

Here are tales of crews, captains, and ships in the terrible moment of destruction; a shoelace rescue from stormy seas; a ship buried in a coffin of cement; the unique salvage of 5 million cans of salmon in Juan de Fuca Strait; the "Treasure Ship" of Neah-Ka-Nie; the attempted rescue of a \$7,000 horse; shipwreck to the tune of "Dardanella"; a brave little passenger age 12; the biggest white elephant fleet that ever sailed

From the earliest Spanish galleons to the sinking of the dredge Wm. T. Rossell at Coos Bay, Oregon, September 1957, these accounts cover 450 years and parallel the building of the entire Pacific Coast.

There is a complete chronological directory of all ships-50 tons or morewrecked, foundered, grounded, burned, bombared or gone missing on both coastal and inland waters of Washington, Oregon and California. Several, found only in Indian legend, are recorded here.

With modern radar and radio, shipwrecks are rarer now and are often shaded by the age's new disasters. But there is forever sorcery and high drama in these true tales of man's fronting nature at its most perilous, with few safeguards other than courage and stamina and great passion for all that the sea can give-and take.

Shipwrecks of the Pacific Coast, \$3.95, by James A. Gibbs, Jr., 312 pages, many photographs of actual wrecks, published by Binfords & Mort, Portland, Ore. -

U. S. Divers Co. **Opens Eastern** Warehouse

U. S. Divers announces an agreement with the Aqua-Gun Co., 1121 North Broadway, Yonkers 3, New York, for the use of the Aqua-Gun Co. facilities as an Eastern Branch Office and warehouse. Ben Holderness, a pioneer in the development of diving equipment and an outstanding promotor of the sport, will continue as President of Aqua-Gun Co., and also serve as U.S. Divers Eastern Branch Manager. He will devote part of his time to the promotion of skin diving.

Aqua-Gun Co. will continue, as in the past, to serve Dealers as a Jobber of diving equipment and other products. Jud Morris, long associated with Mr. Holderness, will be the Manager of Aqua-Gun's jobbing operations. Bob Herson and Stu Leech, former professional divers and long associated with Aqua-Gun Co., will provide expert advise on all matters pertaining to diving equipment and techniques.

John Murphy, 132 Park Avenue, Manhasset, L.I., New York will continue as U.S. Divers full-time Sales Representative in charge of Sales in Greater New York, and Long Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, D.C., and Eastern Pennsylvania. Harry Marr, 5 Mann St., Hingham, Massachusetts continues as full-time Sales Representative in charge of Sales in New England, Upper New York State and Eastern Canada.

Cleon Steiner, 155 Thurman Street. Bluffton, Ohio will continue as Manufacturers' Representative in Ohio, West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania.

These experienced specialized salesmen are well known to the trade and now, together with Ben Holderness and Jud Morris, offer an expert sales, promotion and service "team" for the Eastern Territories, described above, including inspection and repair of Aqua-Lung Regulators, Valves, etc., at the Yonkers warehouse.

U.S. Divers requests that 1958 Spring Stock Orders be mailed to the Los Angeles Factory Office, shipment to be made from that point. Follow up orders requiring fast service will be shipped from the Eastern warehouse at Yonkers which is stocked with the complete U.S. Divers line.

CLUB NEWS

Pages 31-42

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS. COUNCILS

SKIN DIVER Magazine is going to again publish the OFFICIAL CLUB ROSTER and requests that you send us a post card mentioning your club name address, city and state. We must receive this post card from you with the current address of the club in order to include your group in this new roster.

MARCH 20, 1958, is the final date. The old
club list will be thrown away on that date
and the new one compiled from the cards. The old list will be completely disregarded as many of the clubs have reformed into new groups, changed names, address, or dissolved. Also, hundreds of new clubs have been formed and should be included on the club roster. We must have your post card before you can be listed.

Pomona, Calif. . . .

POMONA VALLEY SKIN DIVERS CLUB By Jim Rasmussen The divers of our club have noticed with

incensed interest the mention of diving clubs refusing new divers membership with their clubs. We can all remember the days when we were starting out with fins and mask for the first time, the fellows in the club were a veritable encyclopedia of information, which we newer members absorbed like a dry sponge.

Well here is an open invitation to any divers of any amount of experience in our area to come and dive with us! We meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the West End Fish and Game Association club house in John Galvin Park in Ontario, Calif. For information: Jim Rasmussen, 661 S. Parcells St., Pomona, California, Lycoming 9-2837.

Shreveport, Louisiana . . .

ARK-LA-TEX DIVERS

By Bill Steen The heaviest rains ever recorded in the Shreveport area have put a complete stop to all diving in the local lakes. These heavy rains have made it necessary to call off our Gar Rodeo for this year and all prizes are being returned to the donors.

Most of the diving being done by our mem-bers is salvage work and trips to hunt for clear water. These trips have led us to the conclusion that most of the lakes in north Louisiana and south Arkansas are in exremely poor condition due to the heavy rains. Two of our members, Bob Sutton and Dan Milner, have invested in wet suits and from what they tell us, these suits are very satisfactory for temperatures down to forty degrees F. Lightweight Aquamatic Regulator! . Carry in any position! . Can be used instantly!

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EMERALD AQUADUCKS By Donald L. Dennis

With the dawning of a new year of diving, our club is extending a big invitation to all interested clubs and divers looking for real fun and excitement! It can be found only in our area's famous "Whitewater Boat Parade", April 20th. This annual event was started years ago by the McKinzie River Guide Association and last year included us as a feature.

For those who still don't know what we're talking about, this is a fairly comprehensive rundown: It is 23 miles of white rapids that are more exciting than a roll-a-coaster. Couple that with about 200 boats and 25,000 spectators and you have some idea of the atmosphere created. At the midway lunch point there is big activity by radio and TV Broadcasts as the Queen is crowned.

Your equipment must include a large "White" innertube, yellow shirt of some kind, and your own idea of how to keep warm in 40° water! Register with us not later than April 13th. No scuba needed. Lexington, Kentucky . . .

"MERMEN OF KENTUCKY" By Estill Lyons

Anyone who has ever assisted in the recovery of a drowned victim, does not soon forget the unpleasant experience. Each approximately 6700 drown in the United States. "The Mermen" consists of swimmers of all qualifications, from Aquatic Directors down thru Instructors, Life Savers, to just We have taken it upon ourselves swimmers. to DECREASE the drownings in our area. We are preparing to put on a demonstration May 31, showing how and why so many drown. The purpose of this Water Safety Demonstration is to educate the Public in Prevention, and to impart to them, how they can assist or prevent if the need arises.

We will have the backing of The Kentucky Department of Game and Fish, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y.M.C..A., American Red Cross, radio, newspapers, T.V. and other civic groups.

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Sea Sons try to determine and identify their loot from the wreck of the "Valiant." Lotsters were seen but by-passed for souvenirs.

San Bernardino, Calif. SEA SONS

By Marvin Mendell

Six of our members were fortunate en ugh to have been participants in a dive or the Catalina wreck "Valiant". The dive started just off the Catalina shore at the buoy, rom there it soared downward to a depth of 120 feet and the wreck. Then the graceful glide over the shambled mass of iron and steel and finally the plunge deeper into the nidnight of the hold.

Flashlights showed us an abundance of lobsters but anxiety compelled the divers to pass them by for souvenirs to show the suys back home.

Our loot consisted of a wine jug, peces of barnacle encrusted iron and other rusty items not identifiable.

Eugene, Oregon

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Spokane, Washington . . .

GEIGER TIGER SHARKS

By E. Dwight Howard

The Air Force Geiger Tiger Sharks of Spokane, Washington retire a fruitful first year of existence. Under the able guidance of presidents Lt. James Gunby and Sgt. Eddie Campbell our club worked for the highest standards of safety. The keynote of safety was carried out in club projects of making safety floats, attending skin diving classes and religiously following every safety rule of

The featured events of the year included the local record dive to 200 ft., a treasure hunt, the winter "Polar Bear" ice dive. The spearfishing championship and the In-Club land Empire AAU spearfishing Championships 1st place teams included a Tiger Sharks wife Mrs. Sharon Howard. A victory for the weaker sex.

Skin divers of Idaho, Montana and Inland portions of Washington send your Club or individual address to the Inland Empire Council of Divers c/o John Blake, 420 S. Maple, Spokane, Washington.

Dallas, Texas . . .

DALLAS DIVERS, INC.

By Willis Logan

Not much going on in the way of diving here in Texas. All the water is still bad from the rains last spring. Bill Davis has tried div-ing in a lake near Longview, to check it for diving possibilities. No good now. A few pictures were taken in his new rubber suit.

We were very lucky to have a preview showing of the new TV series "The Sea Hunt" starring Lloyd Bridges. The first two pictures were very good. In conjunction with the opening of this series our club set up a dis-play of diving equipment in the window of the Dallas Mercantile National Bank, which is the local sponsor of the program. Future plans include the Alligator Gar

Rodeo, water permitting, a cold water dive and the Dallas Boat Show.

New members in the club are Fain Pitts, Freddy Smith, Jerry Jenkins, and Richard and Paul Nichols. Welcome new blood.

Anyone wishing to correspond with us, our new address is 4815 Newmore Ave., Dallas 9. Texas.

Donelson, Tenn. . . .

DONELSON SKIN DIVERS CLUB By Bill Strong

We have been doing our best in Nashville, Tennessee at the State Game & Fish Com-mission on the subject of fresh water spearfishing, but to date the Commission will not take a firm stand on whether they will or will not liberalize the existing program. At present it is permissible to spear fish in certain designated areas only at specific times of the year, but then only for "rough" fish.

We have been informed it is quite possible the Commission would change its attitude on spearfishing if it can be shown that such activity will not adversely effect the fish population. Our organization is prepared to present such proof as we know the data exists, but we do not have it available to present it to "the powers that be".

We are asking for help from anyone who can furnish us bonafide information which we can document as to the effect, or lack of effect, spearfishing in fresh water has had upon the conventional manner of taking fish, especially the results in other areas on the Game Fish population before and after spearfishing was allowed in that area. Any information received will be appreciated on this subject. Write to Donelson Skin Divers Club, 2212 Mecca Drive, Donelson, Tennessee.

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We completed our diving course at the Shelton Hotel pool in N.Y.C. thereby making eligible 15 more of our members for our Scuba emblems. We taught the Halsite and Cold Spring Harbor Fire Departments, and the Huntington Police Department Scuba

diving for search and recovery work.

We assisted at the Empire State Underwater Council booth at the National Sports and Vacation Show. Members of the club also took part in the Skin and Scuba safety

demonstrations at the show.

Sent representatives to the C.N.C.A. (Conference for National Cooperation of Aquatics) at Yale University and contributed to their book, "The Science of Skin and Scuba Diving.

One of our members officiated as A.A.U. National Vice Chairman of Competitive Skin Diving. Assisted the Empire State Underwater Council in the Empire State Underwater Spearfishing Championship meet at Ditch Plains, which incidently the L.I.D. team won. We also gave a helping hand to the Council in staging the East Coast Underwater Spearfishing Championships. The Dolphin team placed second in this meet.

Four of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kieser, Ed Feddock and Graham Snediker have been acting as volunteer instructors at the Queens Central YMCA and at the Flushing YMCA, giving instruction in Scuba div-

ing.

Spokane, Washington . INLAND DIVERS

By E. D. Howard

The skin diving clubs of the Inland portions of the Northwest are in the process of forming an Inland Empire Council of Divers. The purpose of the organization is the assisting in promotion, legislation and safety of diving in the Inland regions of the Northwest

The boundary area will tentatively include Inland portions of Washington, Idaho

and Montana

The Inland Empire Council will work closely with State Skin Diving Councils and would add our joint strength and knowledge in resolving problems of this area. The Council will also cooperate with the AAU, the American Red Cross and the Wild Life Conservation Service in the promotion of diving interests.

The Spokane Skin Divers and the Air Force Geiger Tiger Sharks are carrying the ball for organizing the first Council meeting to be

held early this spring.

Skin diving clubs and divers of this area who are interested in promoting the Council please write giving your mailing address and club activities to John Blake c/o Inland Divers, 420 South Maple, Spokane, Washing-

Santa Rosa, California . . . SONOMA COUNTY REEF RUNNERS, INC.

By Al Hart

Our newly organized club has set up a schedule of trophies to be awarded to the members who accomplish the greatest feats in spearfishing, diving, abalone hunting, un-derwater photography, etc. in the coming

Because of poor weather on the coast for the past month diving has been at a standstill but we can still remember the beautiful visibility on the coast above Fort Ross during November.

While we haven't done too much diving during the winter months we have been able to gather about a fire at the Franklin Park Club House (on Franklin Ave. Santa Rosa) and trade stories and experiences, the second

Wednesday of each month.

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Seattle, Wa

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NOR'WEST DIVERS

By Anthony J. Nathe

Members of the Nor'West Diving Club found an old wreck in the Strait of Juan De Fuca near Sekiu, Washington. Frank Wolff, who first spotted the wreck, said it was in about 75 feet of water, a quarter of a mile off shore and about a quarter mile west of Sekiu. Frank said all that was left of the hull was copper sheathing and square

Since our club is always interested in looking for new wrecks, it is always advisable to record and photograph each wreck the club locates, if weather permits. Frank Wolff is making another trip to photograph the wreck he found there last month. The club will record all wrecks they locate by taking pic-tures and keeping a history of its back-

Many wrecks can only be reached by boat, in this case, arrangements can be made for almost any place in Puget Sound area on the "Seattle Skin Diver" a 36' foot cabin Cruiser, perfect for skin diving. A small fee is asked to help pay the gas cost on this boat for one day or week-end cruises. Any one interested in going out on Sundays, contact Seattle Skin Diving Supplies by calling HO 2550 for fur-

Springfield, Mass. . . .

MASSACHUSETTS SEA LIONS

By Edward F. Keenan

Sunday, January 5th, five members of the Massachusetts Sea Lions were holding an experimental skin diving session under the ice at Hampton Ponds, Mass., which turned into a life saving mission for two ice skaters.

First, Gary Fortin, 16, an ice skater fell through the ice into 35 degree water, and began to call for help. Richard Wiggins, 19, hearing the call for help, started to skate to his rescue, when he too fell through the ice and began to call for help.

The Sea Lions, practicing about 500 feet away from the first skater, rushed over to help him out after hearing his call for help. Two divers, Bob Ley and John Merrian, rescued him, while the other three went after the second skater who seemed to be in rather bad shape. He was another 500 feet away and in a deeper part of the pond. After reaching him Alan Hebert went under the ice and held Wiggins, while Pat Baldasaro and Ed Keenan pulled him out with a rope.

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Rahway, N. J. . . MERMEN DIVING CLUB

By Lynn M. Hayes Although I am sorry to report that once again "The Mermen" are on the inactive list, some of the members would like to organize the club again. We would be very appreciative if everyone interested in joining a skin diving club would contact either Lynn Hayes, 85 W. Milton Ave., Rahway, N. J. or John Atchley, 404 Maple Ave., Rahway, N. J. for further information. We have the use of the Rahway Y.M.C.A. pool and a room to meet

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Torrington, Connecticut . NORWESCON SKIN DIVERS By Jack Hricko

Norwescon is expanding. In January a small group of interested divers from Naugatuck and Waterbury met with representatives of Norwescon and stated that they wished to become incorporated into the club for the purpose of training and education in the principles of diving and swimming. When ready, the new club will become an independent member of the Norwescon family of fine diving clubs.

In December the combined groups gave demonstrations at the University of Connecticut and presented a program to a capacity audience at the Torrington YMCA.

Vancouver, B. C., Canada . . . VANCOUVER SUB AQUATICS By Brian McKenzie

We would all like to thank the Victoria Skin Diving Club for the wonderful time they showed us. We all spent a happy day diving off the breakwater in Victoria.

The main diving activity in Vancouver was the annual interclub spearfishing derby. It was sponsored by the British Columbia Council of Diving Clubs. The derby was held in the waters from Garrow Bay to Horseshoe Bay with the weighing-in at Whitecliffe Park. Each club was permitted three two-man

The clubs participating in the derby were the Vancouver Sub-Aquatics, the Vancouver Skin Divers, Aqua Soc Club and the "Y" Divers. The prizes were presented by Mr. Murray Clarke, vice-chairman of the water safety committee of the B. C. Safety Council.

Bill Emmerson and Werner Kaiser of the Sub-Aquatics won the club plaque with six fish which had a total weight of 311/4 lbs. The Sub-Aquatics had 57 lbs. of fish. Bill Vogal of the Aqua Soc Club caught the bigget fish of the day, a 121/2 lb. Ling. The Aqua Socs had a total of 28 lbs. of fish. Fred Rogers of the Vancouver Skin Divers got an 11½ lb. fish. The Vancouver Skin Divers had a total of 34 lbs. of fish. Unfor-tunately the "Y" Divers did not get any

Compton, California SEA ANGELS

By John C. Mills

The Sea Angels ended up an active year with a very enjoyable evening at their annual club dinner and dance. A trophy donated by county instructor Wayne Kalayjian, for the largest fish caught during the year either by scuba or skin diving, was won by one of our better younger divers, Dave Wellander for a 22-lb. grouper. He also won the club's perpetual trophy. Frank Cruze won the trophy for the largest fish of the year. President asked me to extend an invitation to all who are interested in the sport of skin diving, all those that are interested in either learning or joining a year long active club please contact Frank Cruze, 8061 Canterbury Way, Buena Park, California or John Mills, 527 W. Magnolia St., Compton, California.

Poughkeepsie, New York . **DUTCHESS DIVERS**

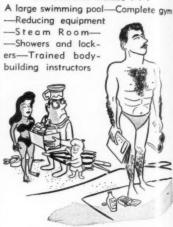
By Thomas Kelly A past season dive of the "Dutchess Divers' was on lake Champlain, off Fort Ticonderoga. The water was so muddy and murky, we couldn't see our hand in front of our mask, but luck was with us and by the sense of touch we located an 18th century British gunboat. This was verified by the fort director when we showed him part of the boat we raised.

The area is very good for relics, but div-ing conditions are very poor, three of our divers got holes in their suits so we do not recommend this for a dive!

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1958

By R. J. Hoey The principal function of the Club has The principal function of the Club has been the training and qualification of skin and scuba divers, and all training is done on a volunteer basis by qualified Club members in their off duty time. Since the club's inception, over 150 members have received training and about one-third have completed the scuba course. Corporal R. F. Storch, has been the Chief Instructor during the past year and has qualified a large percentage of the scuba course graduates. While the course is relatively short, usually taking about three to four evenings for the average swimmer, it is intensive. A taped lecture and written examination on all aspects of skin diving is given in the dry phase, and in the wet phase, the training in the pool leads to qualification tests which remire the student to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of air lung diving equipment and techniques.

Although visibility in these waters is often restricted, catches of flounder and sheepshead have been made inshore and larger fish are taken in the vicinity of offshore wrecks.

The peak of our diving activity each year ome in February and March during maneuver at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. There warm water, exotic coral formations, clear. and topical fish provide ideal conditions for skin divers. As with the sharks of North Caro na, the barracuda of Puerto Rico have been more inquisitive than aggressive. The Group going to Puerto Rico this year will be equipped with two sturdy, sea-going outboards for lishermen and skin divers, who should have their most enjoyable season to date.

Utica. Michigan . . . UTICA SCUBA DIVERS

By Tom Stanzak On September 25, three members from our club took team and individual trophies for the largest aggregate weight of fish in the annual spearfishing contest held by the Michigan skin diving council. All together 108 divers participated from clubs all over the state in the three hour event at Sunshine Beach. Election was held on January 8, 1958. Elected as our new president was Harvey Curtis. Fred Dufty our former president was retained as representative to the Michigan skin diving council. Our club has thirty members and was started in March 56. Anyone interested in joining should write to The Utica Scuba Divers, 47780 Ryan Road, Utica, Michigan.

Cleveland, Ohio . CLEVELAND SKIN DIVERS CLUB

By Peter Kay Most of our diving has been off Dick Baughman's 38 foot fisherman, but we have and will dive in any body of water that has anything of interest to offer. Our club has assisted the United States Coast Guard in body recovery, the Cleveland Police Department in recovery of criminal evidence, and the Museum of Natural History in geological search at various times.

We are now accepting applications for membership. Our only requisite is an honest interest in diving. Club meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at the Cleve-land Aquarium. The latch string is out to any skin diver who is travelling through this part of the country, and would like to do some diving.

We would like to hear from some of the clubs in and near Ohio that are interested in some sort of a get together around the Lake Erie islands in the summer of "58"

Mail will be forwarded to us if addressed as follows: Cleveland Skin Divers Club, Cleveland Aquarium, c/o Museum Natural History, 2717 Euclid Ave., Cleveland

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FOREIGN & DOMESTIC divers wishing to gather shells commercially, contact: Neptune's Shell Mart, 5602 34th St. N., St. Petersburg, Fla.

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Submariner club members Ron Merker Blair Smith with their twin Sheepsheads. The fish weighed 25 pounds each and were speared at the same time.

Corona del Mar, California NEWPORT HARBOR SUBMARINERS By Barbara Silzle

December found the Submariners still actively diving, water still not too cold and quite often very clear. A club trip down the coast proved worthwhile, several sheepshead, Calico and barracuda were taken, not to mention the scallops, lobster and abalone.

Walt Floyd seems to be our lobster man this year although Ron Merker has caught the largest.

The latest Catalina trip presented clear water so Bill Silzle took underwater movies of Ron Merker and Blair Smith spearing large sheepshead in depths up to 75 feet.

Springfield, Mass. MASSACHUSETTS SEA LIONS By Edward F. Keenan

The Sea Lions have installed a monthly newsletter through which we hope to create a more active interest in our club and its activities. Our regular monthly meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each

month at the Boys Club in Springfield, Mass. New officers are Pat Baldasaro, Bill Miller, Vet Jamision, Ed Keenan, Bob Carelli. There is very little diving now, but with good meetings, guest speakers, movies and a lot of planning for the coming season, we shall while away the cold, with an occasional dive under the ice, of course.

Wayne, Michigan WAYNE COUNTY AQUA-MEN

The Wayne County Aqua-Men Skin Diving Club now has branched out into two divisions—a main branch in Wayne and a branch in Detroit. Both branch clubs are booming. The club is thinking of branching out even farther. The main branch may be reached by writing Wayne Department of Recreation, Wayne, Michigan.

River Forest, Illinois . FATHOM JUNIORS By Bruce Martin

We are a newly formed group of high school divers and do most of our diving with our parent club, the West Suburban Fathom Masters. We meet every two weeks at the Oak Park Y and have a pool at our disposal. In spite of these facilities, we have found that during the winter, interest has begun to lag. If any clubs have found a remedy for this situation please write: Bruce Martin, 330 Forest Ave., River Forest, Illinois.

John Q. Burch

1584 W. Vernon Ave. Los Angeles 62, Calif.

We carry in stock hundreds of the best books on skin diving, and frequently publish lists of literature on fishes, and all branches of marine biology, as well as other fields of natural science.

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Divers' Bulletin Board

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CONTEST!—A prize of \$15.00 is being offered to the skin diver who writes the most interesting authentic account of and adventure he has had undersea. Article to be typed and not to exceed 900 words. To be typed and not to exceed 900 words. To be received no later than May 1st, 1958. The winning article will be published in the magazine of the "Buttonwood Farm Shell Auction" in late August, and a com-plimentary copy, ordinarily \$1.00, will be posted the winner. All articles not ac-cepted will be returned to the authors. Overseas spearfishermen invited to join contest. Send article to: Miss Elizabeth M. Wistar, 200 Montgomery Ave., Chestnut Hill, Phila. 18, Pa.

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FRENCH SKIN DIVING INSTRUCTOR, oge 25, graduated French Skin Diving Federation, speaks English and Spanish, seeks position in this field. Jean P. Brous-sard, Club Alpin Sous-Marin, Cannes, France.

CONTEST FOR BEST UNDERSEA PHOTO-GRAPH-Do you have a clear photograph showing a skin diver underwater, with one or more fish, and other sea-life in the composition? An award of \$10.00 will be sent for the photograph selected by our committee, the same to be published in the "Buttonwood Farm Shell Auctions Catalogue" in August, 1958. Unaccepted photographs will be settled. tographs will be returned. Send, before May 1st, to: Miss Anne Rowland, Sec.-Treas., "Fairview Corners," Meadowbrook, Penna.

Tampa, Fla. . . . THE REEF ROVERS By I

By Bill Shonyo

Club President Jim Valla braved somewhat warmer waters in the Miami area during Thanksgiving. Diving with his brother, Art Valla, he landed a healthy 216-lb. jewfish. He reported the fish gave him quite a time, but he managed to secure him to the boat

with the aid of the anchor line.

The Reef Rovers have taken on a new look. Originally designed as a scuba club, it was found that individual finances made it necessary to split the membership. Experi-enced divers are considered "senior" divers qualified to use lungs, while the other mem-bers achieving most of the training course will be considered "junior" divers, free to snorkel dive anywhere under adequate conditions.

Tacoma, Washington .

TACOMA SCUBANEERS By Hank LaMont

and Dave Curtis

A senior life-saving course has been set up for us by Pat Hill, Tacoma Chapter Red Cross Safety Service Director. Ray Herbig, our only member who is a qualified instructor, will instruct us at a local pool one evening per week. We are hoping for 100 percent participation and qualification.

Immediate plans for the future call for setting up a small "fish city" by placing artificial cover in a promising area. If the experiment is successful, we will enlarge our initial "city" and make plans for similar projects in other areas.

Spokane, Washington . . . SPOKANE SKIN DIVERS CLUB

By John Blake

Two three-man teams packed up our div-ing gear and headed for Puget Sound waters some real fabulous diving. Thanks to the help of one of the Mudsharks we went to Whidbey Island and wrestled two smaller octopus, about 6 and 7 feet across. We also spearfished and got a few cabezone and ling cod. The water was around 42 degrees, clear, and beautiful. On Sunday we entered the Winter Meet sponsored by the Puget Sound Mudsharks. Although we didn't place, all members enjoyed themselves. Dale Pratt got the only fish, an 81/2 pounder.

We also had an ice dive at Loon Lake on the 12th of Jan. After cutting through 3½ inches of ice Dale Gill, Eldon Howard, Dale Pratt, and myself ventured into the 34 degree water. The visibility was only 12 ft. Boy that water is really cold!

Boise, Idaho .

HELLDIVERS II

By John Arrington

On New Years Day two men were ice skating on nearby Lake Lowell. One of the men broke through the ice and after several attempts to perform a rescue the man drowned. We sincerely believe that with the immediate aid of skin divers this death could have been prevented.

Our constitution provides for a Rescue, Search, and Salvage Team of four experienced divers with a Senior Lifesaving rating. We have been holding back on the organizing of such a team until we had four members who were equipped to dive in any type of weather and who also have their Lifesaving. With this recent drowning in mind we formed a team even though one of the members does not as yet have his Lifesaving. We will soon be ready and willing to assist any individual or law enforcement agency in the state. We would appreciate any information on the methods and training of your club's underwater rescue group.

Address all correspondence to Alan Scherer, 1309 Shoshone St., Boise, Idaho.

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Indianapolis, Indiana INDIANAPOLIS AQUA DIVERS

By Louise Fox We had a wonderful year during 1957. The club activities included a treasure hunt, a mock spearfishing contest, compass course trials, a local hobby show as well as the usual club meetings. Prizes have been given to our winners, an Aquamatic regulator to Bill Collins and a depth gauge to Art Jacobs. Bill Wolf won first place in the compass course.

This coming season will see our 105 members, from all over Indiana, using the quarry for a training area and to test their equipment and safety rules. We are also going to contact other clubs for competitions. those interested we can be reached through our President Jack Brown, 3117 Forest Manor, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Fresno, California

FRESNO DIVERS

By Millie Hawk Seems all we want to do is rave about our weekend island trips with Jack Kirk aboard the Vellron. December trip was San Clemente-January was Santa Barbara-looking forward to the next trip at Catalina. Ate our fill of lobster on all adventures with Jack. Largest bug taken was a ten pounder.

Other members took trips to Puerto Varllata and Punta Bunda. Diving in these areas was superb for photography. An 80 lb. Am-

berjack was taken.

Carmel and Monterey outings plus the island trips have netted the shell collectors of our club with many varieties of what we call "goodies"

Proud to say that our club, despite the winter weather and the time consuming miles between us and good diving, has remained one of the most active in the area.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada . . . HALIFAX FREE DIVERS CLUB By Don Chiasson

Winter has set in, so diving around Halifax has almost stopped. Winter or no winter, Andy Comeau, Ray Hansen and myself decided to brave the elements. From the beginning we weren't too enthusiastic, but since Andy wanted to try out Gerry Doyle's new suit and I, a new set of contact lenses we went anyway. For this trip, we all wore dry suits with gloves. A few spectators mumbled something about our sanity. I laughed at them until I took a couple of temperature

readings: the air was 16° and the water 34°.

Andy was first in the water, but his hands got wet so he was forced out with his hands numb. Five minutes later, a leak in my suit froze me out; Ray followed, the foot of his flipper torn. In other words, no one was in the water for over half an hour. Actually the trip was a success as Gerry's suit, except for the cuffs, was quite good and my contact lenses worked perfectly.

Hamilton, Ontario . . .

HAMILTON TIGER SHARKS
By Walter Orchard

We have eighteen members at present (all men) and we expected to raise that number to twenty very soon. Twenty members is the limit which we feel we can accommodate at the present time.

We hold weekly dives and instruction courses at a nearby pool and have a social time with our wives and friends once a month. As was mentioned above our Club is for male divers only, therefore we feel that we should give the gals a break once in

By the way, all you older clubs, as we are in our infancy we would like to hear from you. Maybe you can give us some hints for keeping up interest during the winter months. Our address is:-Hamilton Tiger Sharks, 115 Augusta St., Hamilton, Ontario. -

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Larchmont, N. Y. WESTCHESTER TRITONS

By Walter Ellefsen The past several months have seen a number of firsts for our club, among them: Underwater movies; a teaching course; a newspaper; all of which should contribute to the further development and growth of our club.

One of our college students had an interesting experience recently in Canada and we quote a letter from Dave Sussman: "About a week ago I was lung diving at about 30 feet and towing an inner tube behind me. A fishing boat spotted the moving tube and attempted to pull me up. A struggle resulted, I lost, but you should have seen the expression on the guys face when I came cursing to the surface. One guy was pulling on the rope and the other was holding an oar above his head. I almost died laughing.

Any divers interested in joining us can reach us at Box 204, Larchmont, N.Y.

Kansas City, Missouri . . . KANSAS CITY FROGMAN CLUB

By June Poplar We're just two years old, but growing fast in a state where spearfishing is illegal and clear water hard to find.

Our current project is trying to convince the Missouri Conservation Commission that rough spearfishing would be beneficial to the state, and this past summer made several trips to the Lake of the Ozarks to demon-

This winter we've been working on our qualifications for apprentice, novice, expert and master divers. On alternate Thursdays we meet to work on secchi disks. We are distributing these painted pie tins with lead weights and twine, to Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas resorts for testing visibility of the water, as a goodwill project toward line fishermen.

Canal Zone EL PANAMA SKIN DIVING CLUB

By Tony Mann Our membership, which is about 75% from the armed services, is necessarily rather transient, and usually varies from 25 to 35. Girls are allowed in our club, but they gotta dive, and we have several who do so very well. With few exceptions, we make a one or two day trip every weekend, and we rarely go out with less than ten members.

Our diving here in Panama is unique; we have two oceans, with long island-studded coasts offering a tremendous variety of skin diving conditions and underwater scenery, from the rocky, turbulent Pacific, abundant with big fish (and sharks), to the usually calmer, clearer Atlantic, with its beautiful coral reefs. We stress sportsmanship, conservation, and good public relations (we have made ourselves available to the local police for underwater salvage and rescue work.) We emphasize underwater activities other than spearfishing, especially scientific endeavor.

Any roaming skin divers passing through our underwater paradise have a standing invitation to visit and dive with us, and we are eager to correspond with clubs or individual divers anywhere in the world. Our address El Panama Skin Diving Club, YMCA-USO, Balboa, Canal Zone.

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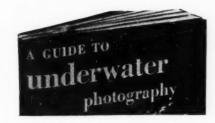
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